

To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: January 31, 2020
Re: Weak D and Partial D Testing

We have received several inquiries regarding weak D and partial D testing. Please refer to the information below for clarification and guidance to choose the most suitable test(s) for your patient(s).

Weak D and Weak D 1, 2, or 3

- The methodology used for Weak D should be regarded as a screening test. It only detects Weak D subtypes 1, 2 and 3. This test is qualitative in nature –resulted as a yes or no.
- Designed to be used primarily for Caucasian patients. >90% of Caucasians, who are weak D, tend to be Weak D subtypes 1, 2 or 3.
- Primarily used to determine if a patient is a candidate for Rh immunoglobulin; therefore should not be ordered on male patients.
- This test is not made to detect any variant or partial D.
- Request this test by selecting Weak D 1, 2, 3 (RHD) on the Reference & Transfusion (R&T) Services Request Form. Typically does not prove beneficial to order in conjunction with other specialized molecular tests.
- Current fee is \$165 and billed as *B1029 RHD Molecular*.

RHD, Partial D, Variant D or RHD Variant Testing

- Can be used for further investigation of any patient with an Rh discrepancy.
- Highly recommended when there is an Rh discrepancy seen with an African American patient. African Americans tend to be partial D rather than weak D subtypes.
- Molecular sequencing is performed to detect a partial D RHD gene.
- Request this test by selecting Partial D (RHD) on the R&T Services Request Form.
- Studies have shown that when patients have a Partial D it is usually associated with RHCE variants. RHCE molecular sequencing can also be selected on the R&T Services Request form.
- Not recommended to order both Partial D and Weak D 1, 2, 3 because molecular sequencing for partial D will provide results for both.
- Current fee is \$350 as billed as *B1032 Molecular sequencing*.

For further clarification, please feel free to contact us at hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org.