

Witness Name: Marion Heale

Statement No: WITN4389013

Exhibits: WITN4389015

Dated: 01 March 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARION KATHERINE HEALE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 17 June 2020.

I, Marion Heale, will say as follows:

1. I make this statement in addition to my statement of 27 January 2021 (WITN4389001) for the purpose of providing further information, and exhibiting further medical documents. **(WITN4389014; WITN4389015)**
2. In this regard, I recently requested copies of my late mother's medical records from her former Doctors surgery. I spent hours reading my mum's medical records and the evidence I have found within them, has brought up many questions for myself and my family about my mother's diagnosis, or lack of it; as well as the possible treatment she could have received if a proper diagnosis had been made years ago. I am grateful that these records have also given me answers as to why she was so poorly for so long.
3. As stated in paragraph 101 of my initial witness statement dated 27 January 2021, I recently discovered that my mother had indeed been tested for HCV in 1998 where it appears to state Hepatitis C detected, as seen in documents previously made available to the Inquiry and referenced in my earlier statement. **(WITN4389011; WITN4389012)**

4. With regards to this recently discovered medical information, I also found further mention of hepatitis C written by the staff nurse in an East Cheshire NHS Trust, Referral to Tissue Viability Specialist Nursing Service form, dated January 2013, although it does not appear that she entered the date she completed the form. The date of testing is shown as 4 January 2013, and the form was faxed on 9 January 2013. Within the section concerning any known risks, is written, "*Hep C + (not confirmed but family reported was 30 years ago)*". I provide this document to the Inquiry. In addition, cirrhosis of the liver (origin unknown), portal hypertension and oesophageal varices are also listed. **WITN4389014**

5. I reiterate that mum never received a hepatitis C diagnosis despite it showing in her medical history records of 22 October 1998. A further mention of hepatitis C also appears on a later East Cheshire NHS Trust hospital assessment record, dated 30 May 2004, which I referenced in my statement of 27 January 2021 at paragraph 115. (WITN4389012) The notes state hepatitis C written within asterixis, under the section of the form titled any known risks.

6. On reviewing her medical notes, I also discovered a further East Cheshire NHS Trust, history and clinical notes document, dated 28 August 2014, which records hepatitis B under the acronym PMH (past medical history). The list includes haemorrhoids and banding, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, Oesophageal varices and Hepatitis B. **WITN4389015**

7. I am confused as to why my mother never received a formal diagnosis yet in several places within her medical notes I have found reference to hepatitis C and hepatitis B, which leads me to wonder why the Skipton application was refused and why her GP surgery didn't confirm the references to hepatitis within her medical notes. Indeed, when Skipton requested more information from mum's GP, as stated in paragraph 102 of my statement, the Practice Manager replied in writing to the Scheme Administrator, stating that a fee would be levied to Skipton because her records had been returned to the health authority and that it would fall to Skipton to review them. I was stuck in the middle of this situation, yet the evidence required by Skipton of my mother's diagnosis

appears to have been within her notes. Paragraph 114-115 of my witness statement refers.

8. I feel that I spent years nursing my mum and watching her frail little body and mind disappear helplessly in front of me. However, if a better diagnosis had been made, our family could have understood what was happening and could have made better use of the time we had with her, to make her life beautiful, as she deserved.
9. I am medically minded by virtue of my employment, and I for one would have understood the impact of what was happening to my mother's liver, even if it had been caused by infected blood she had received years before, but, a diagnosis might have led to treatment and her life might have been so different.
10. My mum spent years of her life going back and forth from GP and hospital appointments, and I feel she had no concrete answer for her years of ill health from any of them, whether because of non-disclosure or a lack of a proper diagnosis.
11. Massive mistakes were made by health care professionals and the family have had to conduct their own investigations and fight for the answers in order to find out what went wrong, for example the Sengstaken tube dislodgement described in paragraph 45 of my previous statement.
12. If it wasn't for my perseverance and asking for an explanation, we would still be in the dark about many undisclosed facts relating to my mum's care and the neglect which endangered her life.
13. The Skipton Fund papers which were completed incorrectly by her GP, led to a refusal of support for my father. Section 7: Financial Assistance - paragraphs 106-115 of my previous statement refers. Personally, it is not about the compensation, but their refusal makes me feel that they were denying the probability of what might have caused my mum's illness, i.e. Infected blood.

14. I feel totally let down and appalled that because a family could not afford to pay the fee to retrieve the files from medical institutions when my mum passed away, the application was declined. Perhaps we lost out on a lot of financial support that my father could have done with now. Furthermore, the records had already seemingly been read and analysed by the GP practice but they appear to have missed the reference to hepatitis C recorded in 1998 and further mention in 2013 and 2014. Moreover, when asked for further information from the Skipton Fund Administrator, the practice manager responded informing Skipton that there would be a cost for recalling and photocopying the records (Paragraph 114-115 of my first statement refers). I feel we were unwittingly caught between two organisations.
15. All of my mum's problems and symptoms shouted 'poorly liver' so why wouldn't the health professionals just accept what could have been the reason for her illness?
16. Her GP surgery knew she wasn't an alcoholic so why come out with inappropriate comments as mentioned in my initial witness statement, that made her life even more distressing?
17. I understand totally about 'patient confidentiality' but, things should be changed when this is used to hide behind, when medical mistakes are made and when professionals are using it as a cloak for the non-disclosure of truths and facts.
18. I would not have found out the true facts except for the Infected Blood Inquiry, enabling me to get hold of most of my mother's medical notes to support my statement and which I have made available. So, a really big thank you for that and for all the hard work the Investigators and the Inquiry is doing.
19. Things need to change and the medical profession need to be accountable for any mistakes in the present, past and future.
20. I do believe the 6 pints of blood my mum received in 1971 were contaminated and I will go forward and press for justice from EIBSS, now armed with further proof.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed GRO-C

Dated 01 March 2021

EXHIBITS:

EXHIBIT	DATE	DESCRIPTION
WITN4389014	04/01/2013 (faxed 09/01/2013)	East Cheshire NHS Trust Referral to Tissue Viability Specialist Nursing Service Form – completed by Staff Nurse Logan
WITN4389015	28/08/2014	East Cheshire NHS Trust History sheet – Clinical Notes – Hep B mentioned