

Witness Name: Deborah Ann Yeates

Statement No: WITN2952001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: MARCH 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DEBORAH ANN YEATES

I, Deborah Ann Yeates, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Deborah Ann Yeates (Nee Moore) born [GRO-C] 1957 of [GRO-C]. I am married with one child Nicola who, in turn, has one child [GRO-C].
2. My late mother Helen Derwent Moore (nee Humphrey, born on [GRO-C] [GRO-C] 1932) was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood. She died of liver failure on [GRO-C] 1993.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my mother's full medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My mother told me in 1991 that she had been diagnosed with sclerosis of the liver, despite being virtually teetotal and a non-smoker with no other health issues.
5. We lived in GRO-C, Norfolk until 1975. After my mother's death, my sister and I remember that my mother was very unwell in the in the early 1970s. She suffered severe blood loss and had to receive a number of blood transfusions. Most of our relations had lived well into their eighties. Conversely, my mother died prematurely at the age of 60.
6. I cannot recall the hospital where my mother received blood. I think it highly likely that it was a hospital in Kings Lynn, either the St James' Hospital or the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which opened about that time. The other local hospitals were cottage hospitals.
7. At the time of my mother's death, my sister and I were unclear as to what her condition was and how it might have been triggered. She was never (to my knowledge) tested for Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B or HIV. After my mother's death, I learned about HCV and the transmission of the virus by non-screened blood. I worked in Human Resources and was alerted to the issue by an Occupational Nurse at my workplace. I went on to do my own research into the matter. The issue had never been raised by my mother's doctors and discussed with me or my other family members.
8. I believe it to be extremely unlikely that my mother would have been warned of any risks of infected blood products prior to her blood transfusion. She never once mentioned it to me, either at the time of treatment or, subsequently, when she became ill and we were all trying to understand how and why she had developed liver disease. We have been unable to access my mother's medical records. My mother should have been told about the risk of infection when she received the blood transfusions. She should have

been made aware of the risks of non-screened or infected products if they were known at that time.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I have no reason to believe that my mother was infected with anything other than HCV.

Section 4. Consent

10. My mother knew nothing about HCV, HBV or HIV. If she was treated or tested for any infection, she was completely in the dark. She told me quite clearly that her medication was for "liver disease".

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

11. I had lost my father to heart disease in 1987 so my mother was our sole remaining parent with so much for her to live for. In 1991 she was a mother to three girls, grandmother to my daughter aged 8, and my middle sister's two boys aged 6 and 4 years. My youngest sister, 10 years younger than me, was not yet married and had no children at that time.

12. For the next 18 months, my mother was very poorly, being in and out of hospital, in acute pain from suspected pancreatitis, not able to eat properly and with little quality of life. My daughter used to enjoy her holidays with Grandma each year, helping her deliver meals on wheels, accompanying her to her stewarding duties with the National Trust, going to her bowls club, walking the dog and other activities. Sadly my mother had to give up all of this as she was too tired or in too much pain to continue, spending much time in bed. She became very depressed by her weakened state and withdrew from her friends and family being too unwell to face company. She was admitted to Hereford Hospital for the final time in GRO-C 1992 and died shortly after her 60th birthday. She did not live to see a third grandson, nor her youngest daughter's marriage and the birth of two further grandchildren,

one, a severely disabled granddaughter born in 1997. My youngest sister did not have the benefit of a mother to help her look after her daughter and her marriage broke up partly as a result of the pressures of coping.

13. Three daughters and six grandchildren have been denied the presence of a very caring and active mother/grandma at celebrations, hard times, weddings births etc.

14. This situation has stripped our family of the key person in our lives. So much has happened since she died that she should have been party to. No-one knows how long she would have been part of our lives but to lose her so early and so cruelly is very difficult to express. The emotional impact of not having her to talk to, visit or simply have her presence in our lives is immeasurable.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

15. I do not know about any obstacles and/or difficulties my mother would have faced in sourcing treatment, care and/or support.

16. No psychological support that was made available to me at the time and/or after my mother's death.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

17. I am unaware of any financial support provided to my mother or my family.

Section 8. Other Issues

18. There are no other issues.

Anonymity

19. I am not seeking anonymity. I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry. I do not wish to give oral evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed....

GRO-C

Dated

15-3-19.

MEDICAL SUMMARY

(This summary is not intended to be exhaustive but sets out key points in the records relevant to the Statement)

There are no medical notes and records available.