

Patient Experience/: 15.7196

24 February 2015

Hull Royal Infirmary
Anlaby Road
Hull
HU3 2JZ

Private and Confidential

Mr Darren Rawson

GRO-C

Dear Mr Rawson

I acknowledge receipt of your letter, in which you raise concerns regarding the treatment provided for you whilst a patient at Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. I am sorry to learn of the events you describe.

I regret that due to the amount of time that has elapsed since your treatment was undertaken, your complaint now, in accordance with the NHS Complaint Regulations, falls outside the timescale and we are unable to investigate.

I understand you are currently under the care of Dr Jacquie Smithson, Consultant Gastroenterologist and she has asked me to convey the following information to you:

Transmission of viruses via blood transfusion was a world wide problem until the mid 1980's when it was known as Non A non B Hepatitis. Hepatitis C was not identified until 1989. In England and Wales blood began to be heat treated to destroy any viruses during 1985 and slightly later than this in Scotland.

According to our records you were given blood in 1988 and this was done in the belief that the blood from the transfusion service was safe and heat treated. We have formally requested if the Blood Transfusion Service could trace the blood given to you but they do not keep records this far back. As our investigations stand we acknowledge that it may have been the blood transfusion that caused your Hepatitis C infection and if this is the case we sincerely apologise. However, we are unable to confirm this.

We acknowledge that chronic Hepatitis C can cause many symptoms and in some cases significant damage to the liver, but recent advances in treatment mean that it is more treatable now and outcomes should be much better.

We always regret when advances in medicine show that old practices resulted in poor outcomes for patients and the NHS as a whole regrets that any patients were infected with Hepatitis C as a result of a blood transfusion

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If you feel it would be helpful to discuss this further, please contact Dr
Smithson via her secretary on telephone number (**GRO-C**)

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Chris Long
Chief Executive