

Witness Name: Prof Pratima Chowdary

Statement No.: WITN3826031

Exhibits: WITN3826032 - WITN3826033

Dated: February 2024

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR PRATIMA CHOWDARY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9(1) and (2) of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12 February 2024.

I, Professor Chowdary, will say as follows: -

Access to recombinant blood products

1. As an organisation, UKHCDO have supported a policy of recombinant for all from the early 1990s and this has been reiterated in two publications, which were referred to in our closing submissions.
2. In the last decade, access to two recombinant products has been notably problematic:
 - Access to recombinant Factor XIII for patients with inherited Factor XIII deficiency, the only one of its kind.
 - Access to recombinant Von Willebrand Factor (rVWF) for children with Von Willebrand Disease, particularly noting the varied approach across the UK. While Wales has provided rVWF for children to manage bleeds and surgical interventions for the last two years, its use in England is still under review. This has been escalated on multiple occasions to NHS England, and a letter is attached [WITN3826032]. A patient has also requested a letter for their MP

and a redacted copy is attached [WITN3826033]. Additionally, the delay in drug licensing in the UK compared to the USA further complicates access. As an example, rVWF has been licensed for prophylaxis in the USA since January 2022, yet it faces a prolonged licensing process in the UK, delaying its availability through the NHS.

3. A recommendation from the chair to both NHS and regulatory authorities on expediting the approvals of recombinant products, where they are the only recombinant product available, would be welcomed by clinicians and patients.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 24 Feb 2024

Date	Description	Exhibit Number
August 2021	Letter from Dr Mary Mathias to NHS England	WITN3826032
Undated	Letter from Dr Mary Mathias	WITN3826033