

Witness Name: Naeem Ibrahim

Statement No: WITN6895001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: November 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF NAEEM IBRAHIM

I, Naeem Ibrahim, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Naeem Ibrahim. I was born on GRO-C 1975 and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C GRO-C.
2. My mother, Nazira Begum (born on GRO-C 1948), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) through a contaminated blood transfusion. She died on 3rd October 2020, aged 72.
3. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my mother's medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

4. My mother (Mum) had a blood transfusion whilst undergoing a hysterectomy at the Singleton Hospital in Swansea, South Wales in the mid to late 1980s. She was transfused with 7 units of blood during that operation.
5. I am one of four siblings, two girls and two boys and I believe I was around the age of 12 when Mum had the contaminated transfusion.
6. Mum wasn't told that she had been infected with HCV for many years later (in the early 2000s) and by then she had become unwell. She subsequently needed a liver transplant and had to wait a substantial period of time before she had one. Approximately three years after the liver transplant Mum developed drug-induced Parkinson's Disease leading to her death last year.

Section 3. Other Infections

7. I do not believe that my mother was infected with anything other than HCV.

Section 4. Consent

8. My mother was not pre-warned about the risk of infection through a blood transfusion prior to the hysterectomy and had no idea for around 15 years that she had been infected with HCV.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

9. Mum was very active before she became unwell through being infected with HCV. My parents had a thriving grocery business in South Wales. She would regularly work up to 15 hours per day in the shop. When she wasn't at the shop, she was on the go with other things. I even remember her painting the ceiling.

10. Mum's health deteriorated and she was always very down about her ill health. She was bloated and suffered with stomach pains and headaches. She always seemed to have her head in a wrap and was forever going back and forth to the doctor.
11. Mum was often yellow, and she was always complaining that she was itchy. The doctor ran so many tests before finally telling her that she had HCV. She had chronic liver damage and she developed encephalopathy from the toxins. She was always confused, and her behavior was very erratic. My parents split up some time in the mid-2000s. My father couldn't cope and left. Mum was very hard to deal with and it was hard on my younger brother who was still living at home.
12. Mum had a full 6 month course of Interferon as an HCV clearing treatment. It was a nasty treatment. Mum had her injection on a Monday and was poorly for the rest of the week. I was married and a mother to five children but Mum expected me to be around her almost constantly. She became very needy and dependent. After the Interferon treatment Mum was in very poor shape, physically and mentally. We became embroiled in a long running battle, attending hospital appointments, making phone calls and trying to persuade Mum's clinicians to agree to the liver transplant she needed.
13. Whilst waiting for the liver transplant, Mum's encephalopathy persisted and her confusion, mood swings and irrational behavior intensified. There were three occasions where Mum was called to come in for a transplant that did not proceed because the donor liver was defective. We lived in Manchester and had to rush Mum to St James Hospital in Leeds every time the transplant was going ahead and then aborted. So much time was lost just waiting for the transplant and it was unbelievably stressful for all of us.
14. Mum developed drug induced Parkinson's Disease around three years after the transplant through the medications that Mum needed to take. When she was

told that she had Parkinson's she lost the will to live and she took it out on us, her children. It is expected in Asian families for the children to look after their parents. The last few years of Mum's life were terrible for all of us. Mum expected me to come and attend to her four times each day despite the fact that four of my five children were still dependent upon me. If I wasn't able to be there, she would guilt trip me for 'not caring' about her enough. If I tried to take time out from her (even for just a day) Mum would be relentless in ringing me. She was forever at war with one of us siblings. We all bent over backwards for her, but she was never pleased or happy. The strong sibling relationship we all enjoyed before it all happened, crumbled as Mum's demands triggered huge arguments between us. Mum had two serious attempts at killing herself by overdosing on tablets. The mental abuse we all took from Mum has had a profound and continuous effect on us.

15. Mum's ending was horrendous. She stopped eating for 6-8 weeks before she died, and we had to fight for IV feeding for her. My sister and I sat by her bed and were there when she drew her last breath. I love and miss Mum, but it was just awful.

16. Mum's illness and her resultant behavior caused the breakdown of my marriage. Moreover, I wasn't able to give my children the time and attention they deserved. I wasn't there for them mentally and emotionally even when I was physically present. I am still trying to rebuild a relationship with my eldest son (now 23 years old). My youngest son struggled with reading and has since been identified as being dyslexic. I should have picked up on that, but I was mentally tired all the time. We siblings were worn out trying to cope with Mum and we all have mental issues in one way or another.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

17. Mum had HCV clearing treatment. No-one was offered care and support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

18. Mum received a lump sum payment from one of the dedicated trusts, I presume to be the Skipton Fund.

Anonymity

19. I do not seek anonymity and I understand that this Statement will be disclosed for publication to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.

GRO-C

Dated...

10.12.21