

Witness Name: Jane Marie Newman

Statement No: WITN0883001

Exhibits: WITN0883004

Dated: August 2019

**INFECTION BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**EXHIBIT WITN0883004**

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MELIUS TABESCERE QUAM TORPESCERE  
DR C R REES MB ChB DObstRCOG FRCGP

GRO-C

RECEIVED 04 MAY 2019  
2nd June 2019

Dear Sir

I have been asked to make a  
report concerning Rodney Prosser by his  
family.

I therefore am sending the information  
I have previously supplied. It is difficult  
for me to make any additions to them.

Yours faithfully

GRO-C: Charles Rees

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHARLES ROBERT REES**

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I, Charles Robert Rees,

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

1. My name is Charles Robert Rees. My date of birth is GRO-C 1945 and my address is as above. I worked as a doctor in the National Health Service (NHS) from 1970 to 2017. I was a Partner from 1972 to 1978, and Senior Partner from 1978 to 2010 in Penny's Hill Practice.
2. I intend to speak about my former patient and friend, Rodney Prosser, and the circumstances in which he became infected with the Hepatitis C ("HCV") virus.

#### **Section 2: How Infected**

3. Rodney Prosser was a patient and a friend. Being young in 1986, he rarely came to me as a patient. However, we played football together for the Ferndown Fluids and Charlie's Angels teams.
4. I was aware that Rodney was a mild haemophiliac but it was barely a problem. I was also aware that if he had an injury such as a sprained ankle, the swelling would be greater than average.
5. Rodney became infected with HCV during a hospital visit. On the day in question, he had sustained a head injury playing football. I think I was playing

football with him that day but I took little or no part in his care. He was admitted to the hospital that day and being a mild haemophiliac, he was detained overnight.

6. When he later came to tell me about his experience, he said they told him he should have an injection\* for his injury. He said, and I can hear him saying it now, "I don't want any of that bloody stuff". I assume that being haemophiliac, he was aware there was a problem with the Factor VIII\*\* that was given. He then told me that during the night, a doctor\*\*\* had woken him and given an injection while he was half asleep. And that was it for the rest of his life.

### **Section 3: Knowledge of Infected Blood Products**

7. I do not think I was aware of infection from blood products in 1986. Hepatitis C had not even been named, and there was only talk of a non A non B strain. Hepatitis A was at the time endemic, and it had not been long since Hepatitis B had been called Homologous Serum Jaundice.
8. The first people in Bournemouth to die of AIDS were in 1981 at the Royal National Hospital, but it was not until the mid 1980s when it all kicked off. I worked as a Medical Underwriter at that time and I remember the anxiety of the Actuaries and Executives to the new HIV infection. The Society of Actuaries produced five possible scenarios in their analysis of the AIDS epidemic, and all of them were dreadful.\*\*\*\* None of the scenarios came to fruition due to the clean needle program.\*\*\*\*\*
9. I did not provide medical advice to Rodney during that time about the use of blood products for haemophilia treatment and the risks associated with their use.
  - \*Rodney did not specify the injection but we assumed it was Factor VIII.
  - \*\* I have changed Vit K to Factor VIII which was standard treatment then for Haemophilia.
  - \*\*\* Rodney said it was a male Doctor but it could have been a nurse.

- \*\*\*\* The Actuaries had done their calculations on known mortality but the HIV and AIDS epidemic threatened to introduce a mortality they had not accounted for.
- \*\*\*\*\* By freely giving sterile needles to intravenous drug users the transmission of blood borne diseases was reduced.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

GRO-C

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

2nd June 2019