

Witness Name: Royal Free Hospital (Debra Anne Pollard)
Statement No. WITN3094001
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EXHIBIT "WITN3094001/14"

This is the exhibit marked "WITN3094001/1" referred to in the witness statement of
Debra Anne Pollard dated 7 May 2019

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2003/0056

Wednesday 12th February 2003

**GOVERNMENT INVESTS AN EXTRA £88 MILLION
IN HAEMOPHILIA TREATMENTS**

**New funding will secure synthetic clotting products for
haemophilia patients**

Public Health Minister Hazel Blears today announced an extra £88 million over the next three years to provide synthetic clotting factors for haemophilia patients.

In 1998 the Government provided funding to place all haemophilia patients under 16 on synthetic clotting factors. These patients have continued to receive synthetic products as they have grown older. The extra funding announced today will extend the availability of synthetic clotting products to adult haemophilia patients.

Over the next few months the Government will work with key stakeholders including the Haemophilia Society to design a programme for rolling out access to these products to older age groups. The roll out will take time to achieve because of the large volumes of product involved but by March 2006 the vast majority of patients should be receiving the new treatments.

Haemophilia is a genetic blood condition in which an essential clotting factor is either partly or completely missing. This causes a person with haemophilia to bleed for longer than normal. The main problem is bleeding into joints, muscles and soft tissues.

Treatment for haemophilia is usually by replacing the missing clotting factor through regular injections which helps the blood to clot and minimises the likelihood of long term joint damage. For many years clotting factors used to treat people with haemophilia have been made from human blood plasma. As a precaution against the theoretical risk from vCJD, plasma from UK donors is no longer used to make these products.

In recent years synthetic alternatives to clotting factors from human plasma have become increasingly available. These are usually known as recombinant clotting factors and are regarded as free from the risk of blood borne infections as well as the theoretical risk from vCJD.

Hazel Blears said:

"We have taken a number of steps to make clotting factors used to treat people with haemophilia as safe as possible. We hope this extra £88 million will ultimately give all haemophilia patients access to synthetic treatments, where these are recommended by clinicians."

Karin Pappenheim Chief Executive of the Haemophilia Society welcomed today's announcement. She said:

"As the national patient group, the Society welcomes this move. It shows that the Government has listened to the wishes of patients with haemophilia who want the choice of being treated with synthetic recombinant, which is now seen as the safest modern treatment for this incurable bleeding disorder. We look forward to working with the Department of Health, NHS managers and clinicians on the implementation of this positive improvement to patient care."

Notes to editors

1. There are around 5000 haemophiliacs in England, around 2200 with severe haemophilia requiring regular treatment with clotting factors. Around 700 of these are aged up to 21 and therefore already receiving synthetic clotting factors.
2. The £88 million will begin the process of extending the provision of recombinant clotting factors to the roughly 1500 severe haemophilia patients over the age of 21. It is estimated these patients will require in the region of 200 million units of clotting factor a year.
3. The £88 million will be allocated as follows: 2003/04 - £13 million; 2004/05 - £21.7 million; 2005/06 - £53.4 million.
4. Department of Health officials will be working closely with the Haemophilia Society, the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organisation, Primary Care Trusts and others to agree a strategy for the phased introduction of synthetic products for adult haemophilia patients using allocated funds.
5. For further information please contact the Department of Health press office on 020 7210 5623 / 4860.

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