

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name: GRO-B

Statement No: WITN7568001

Exhibits:0

Dated: November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GRO-B

I, GRO-B, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is GRO-B. I was born on GRO-B. I live at GRO-B
GRO-B.
2. GRO-B.
3. I make this statement in relation to my mother, GRO-B: M, who was born on GRO-B and is currently aged GRO-B. She was infected with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) via a contaminated blood transfusion during complications during GRO-B in GRO-B at the GRO-B
GRO-B.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my mother's medical records. My brother, GRO-B, has applied for her GRO-B
GRO-B.

5. My mother and my [GRO-B] also intend to provide witness statements to the Inquiry.

Section 2. How Affected

6. My mother was infected with HCV following a contaminated blood transfusion received due to complications [GRO-B] in [GRO-B] at the [GRO-B].
7. [GRO-B]
8. I am unaware as to whether any information or advice was provided to my mother in relation to the risks of being exposed to infection from blood transfusions.
9. In or around [GRO-B] my mother was informed by her GP in [GRO-B] that she had contracted Hepatitis C. I don't know whether she was given adequate information to understand and manage the infection.

Section 3. Other Infections

10. I don't know whether my mother received any other infections, apart from HCV, from the contaminated blood transfusion.

Section 4. Consent

11. I do not know whether my mother was treated or tested without her knowledge or consent. Similarly, I do not know whether my mother was used for the purposes of research without her consent. [GRO-B]
[GRO-B]

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

12. The HCV damaged my mother's liver which resulted in Cirrhosis for which she required extensive medical treatment.

13. She also developed and now has Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

14. She has gall stone issues and wears a Percutaneous Cholecystostomy.

15. My mother suffers with Atrial Fibrillation.

16. My mother suffered with extreme fatigue, nausea and irritability.

17. All my mother's treatment for HCV [GRO-B] and I am aware that she underwent Harvoni treatment about 7 years ago.

18. My mother suffers with constant anxiety, stress and worry because of her HCV infection which has required constant medical attention.

19. We struggled with stigma growing up as a family as people thought that our family would infect them. We only told family members; we have a very close [GRO-B] family, but people talk and it got out which meant that people were afraid to interact with our family for fear of infection.

20. On top of her HCV, my mother also had to care for my disabled father, who had Emphysema. He needed 24/7 care from her. He passed away in [GRO-B].

21. My mother requires a carer 24/7 and I am currently fulfilling that role.

22. I have been deeply affected and saddened by my mother's illness. It was so hard to see her sleeping all the time and not knowing why she was always so exhausted. She would come in from work and then go straight to sleep. At the time, I had no idea what was wrong with her; no one knew that she was struggling with the terrible and debilitating effects of Hepatitis C.
23. I also remember times when my poor mother was so exhausted that she would fall asleep whilst the stove was on, and I had to wake her and say, "*mother the cook top is open, and you are sleeping*". This worried me terribly, but it was not my mother's fault. She would also fall asleep after doing something in the house, such a cleaning or another task, and at the time I knew that something was not right, and something was different about her, but due to my young age I could not figure out what the problem was.
24. I also remember how yellow my mother was and this included both her skin and her eyes. People used to notice this terrible yellowness and I worried that they might put two and two together and work out that she had Hepatitis C.
25. I felt so upset that, up until the Harvoni treatment, the family had been told that there was no cure for my mother's Hepatitis C, and we came so close to losing her to this terrible infection. She has had to endure so much and live with Hepatitis C for all of her life which has been tough on her and her family.
26. Without Harvoni I don't know where we would be and we have my sister, GRO-B to thank for this. It was her who was the driving force behind ensuring that our mother was treated with Harvoni. The medical insurance would not fund treatment with Harvoni due to its expense, so we had to swap to a GRO-B to fund this life saving treatment.
27. Sadly, shortly after the Harvoni treatment my mother developed Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and had to undergo surgery on her left hip. She is now only mobile with the assistance of a walker with wheels which has added to her difficulties. She will need to use this walker for the rest of her life.

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28. In my role as my mother's full-time carer, I now do all the cooking and cleaning. I make her breakfast, lunch and dinner and take her to all her medical appointments. I also take her to dermatology appointments which are approximately every 2 months. There are also nurses that come to the house and take my mother's blood every 2 weeks to make sure that her medication is working.
29. Dealing with my mother's Hepatitis C has been an emotionally devastating rollercoaster. I am just so thankful that she is still with us today and that we have so much love in our family. We have all pulled together and work as a team to give our mother the best possible life we can. We all take it in turns to take her out and her co-workers from the restaurant all come and visit her as well. She is so well loved and respected. Everyone is rallying around to give our mother the very best of the life that she has left.
30. The love of our mother and the love we have in the family got us through though. She is a real trooper, is as strong as an ox and has got this unbelievable will to live. The admiration I have for my mother is immense.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

31. We did not know that there was any treatment for HCV until a few years ago.

My mother was treated with Harvoni about 7 years ago.

GRO-B

GRO-B

32. Neither my mother nor I have ever been offered any counseling or psychological support in consequence of her HCV infection.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

33. Neither my mother nor I have received any financial assistance from any of the Trusts or Funds set up to distribute payments.

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34. We GRO-B and did not know that financial assistance was available. The obstacles we faced in this regard were lack of knowledge and correspondence from the NHS/Trusts/Funds regarding my mother's infection and the fact that financial assistance was available.

Section 8. Other Issues

35. I want the Inquiry to make a finding that those who have suffered should be entitled to receive compensation. I want my mother to be compensated for the difficult years she has had to endure as a result of the Hepatitis C. I hope it doesn't happen again to anyone else and the truth needs to come out. Our path been so very hard and all because of a blood transfusion which was given to my mother back in the day when she GRO-B. I think and certainly hope that people are more cautious today and that we have better rules in place.

Anonymity

36. I wish to be anonymous.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated

December 13 2022