

## SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES

### SWINDON HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE

#### The Centre

1. The Swindon Haemophilia Centre was designated as centre number 29. It was part of the Princess Margaret Hospital (“PMH”), which was demolished in around 2003.<sup>1</sup> There are few relevant documents available.
2. An Inquiry witness has described being under the care of Dr Henry Campbell Drysdale at the PMH from 1979 until Dr Drysdale retired in the early 1990s.<sup>2</sup> Two documents from 1979 and 1985 also record that Dr Drysdale was a haematologist at the PMH.<sup>3</sup> No documents have been identified which refer to Dr Drysdale as the Centre’s director, but he appears to have been the clinician with responsibility for haemophilia patients in the 1970s and 1980s.

#### Relationship with other Haemophilia Centres

3. The Centre was part of the Oxford Supraregion of haemophilia centres in 1977-1982.<sup>4</sup>
4. An Inquiry witness has explained that, from the time of diagnosis in 1972, he was always “*under the care and supervision of the Oxford Haemophilia Centre*” but that from 1979, his Factor VIII was administered at PMH.<sup>5</sup> By 1983, the witness’s mother was administering his Factor VIII concentrate, which was “*despatched to the PMH by Oxford where she would collect it*”.<sup>6</sup> In a February 2019 email to the witness, Dr Drysdale referred to “*the support which the Oxford haemophilia department provided*”.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> WITN1598001

<sup>2</sup> WITN1598001 para 4.

<sup>3</sup> BSHA0000114 and NHBT0055953

<sup>4</sup> HCDO0000138\_012

<sup>5</sup> WITN1598001

<sup>6</sup> WITN1598001 para 17.

<sup>7</sup> WITN1598010

## Numbers of patients treated

5. No full annual returns have been identified for the Centre. The available documents are patient lists with treatment details. In the period to 1985, these show that the Centre treated 4 haemophilia A patients in 1980 and 1981, and 3 haemophilia A patients in 1983.<sup>8</sup>

## Blood products usage

6. In the period to 1985, the available patient lists record that the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients with NHS concentrate in 1980 and 1981.<sup>9</sup> The products used in 1983 are unclear.<sup>10</sup>
7. A UKHCDO annual treatment record for the witness referred to above – who was infected with hepatitis C – suggests that the Centre treated him with Oxford Factor VIII concentrate between 1978 and 1983, alongside treatment at the Oxford Haemophilia Centre.<sup>11</sup> Dr Drysdale, in his February 2019 email to the witness, commented as follows on the Centre’s approach to treatment and its relationship with the Oxford Centre:<sup>12</sup>

*“We were enormously lucky, you and I, in the support which the Oxford haemophilia department provided. They were under no obligation, but without them I am certain that you would have become infected<sup>13</sup> and, by now, be dead. If we had to replay the scanario [sic] and I am again placed with a lad in acute pain and I have only foreign therapeutic material of doubtful provenance to give you, you would have received it. There was no alternative. It would not have been culpable. I could not have left you with only local*

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<sup>8</sup> HCDO0001475, HCDO0001579 and HCDO0001771. This number can be seen from ticks in the column recording whether patients were treated.

<sup>9</sup> HCDO0001475 and HCDO0001579

<sup>10</sup> HCDO0001771

<sup>11</sup> WITN1598003

<sup>12</sup> WITN1598010

<sup>13</sup> I.e. infected with HIV.

*measures and analgesia when an effective, albeit unproven, remedy was to hand. It was simply good fortune and the kindness of Rizza and Matthews which saved us both from remorse.”*

### **Knowledge of risk of hepatitis and HTLV-III/AIDS**

8. UKHCDO minutes do not record any attendance from Dr Drysdale at meetings in the 1970s and 1980s. However, it may be reasonable to assume that Dr Drysdale would have received copies of the reports circulated for, and the minutes of, UKHCDO meetings.
9. In a June 1979 letter to Dr Drysdale, copied to Dr Rizza at the Oxford Centre, Dr Wassef provided information about a patient who was finishing his schooling at Treloar's.<sup>14</sup> The letter included a section for abnormal liver function tests.
10. In November 1985, Dr Drysdale informed Dr Entwistle at the Oxford Regional Transfusion Centre about a patient who had ‘*turned yellow*’ following a blood transfusion in September 1985.<sup>15</sup>

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**November 2022**

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<sup>14</sup> WITN1941013

<sup>15</sup> NHBT0055953