

Witness Name: Arun Shankar  
Statement No.: WITN3065  
Exhibits:  
Dated:

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ARUN SHANKAR

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 2 March 2019.

I, **Arun Shankar**, will say as follows: -

#### Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Dr. Arun Nathan Shankar, MBBS, FRCP Consultant Hepatologist, Norfolk and Norwich University Trust, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UY.
2. I have been a Consultant Hepatologist at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital since August 2014

#### Section 2: Response to criticism of Carole Anne Hill

3. I first met Dr Hill on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 when she had been referred to me for investigation of abnormal LFTs. My thoughts at this stage were to exclude a chronic hepatitis (autoimmune or viral) or cancerous process. I sent off a full chronic liver screen, which includes testing for Hepatitis C. I also arranged CT scans. The blood tests results came back showing Chronic Hepatitis C and a possible ovarian mass. I advised Dr. Hill of these results by letter (as is my usual practice) and she was understandably shocked not realising that I had tested for Hepatitis C among all the tests I had sent off (although I had warned her that I was testing her for a number of liver conditions, though I did not specify which tests as there were many). In this I was following standard practice which subsequently has been further recommended by BSG guidelines. I also arranged Gynaecological follow up for her ovarian problems.
4. I followed up the letter with a telephone call to go through the results in more detail and explain the plan of action (Staging of liver disease with FibroScan and then treatment with new Direct Acting Antivirals). I also informed her about the Skipton Fund and later completed her paperwork for this including sourcing her Cromer and District Hospital medical notes.
5. All patients coming to Liver clinic should be tested for Hepatitis C. This is standard practise.
6. I referred Dr Hill to our Hepatitis C service, which is overseen by my consultant colleague Dr. Syed Alam, but is administered by our Liver Nurse Specialists. The information about waiting times for treatment and choice of antivirals were accurate at time and were decisions taken at NHS England

level administered by Regional hubs and MDTs and not made locally at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

**Section 3: Other Issues**

4. If there are any other issues in relation to which you consider that you have evidence which will be relevant to the Inquiry's investigation of the matters set out in its Terms of Reference, please set them out in your statement.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 23 APRIL 2019