

Witness Name: Julie Poyner
Statement No.: WITN4521001
Exhibits: WITN4521002;
WITN4521003
Dated: 17 July 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JULIE POYNER ON BEHALF OF NORTHERN DEVON HEALTHCARE TRUST

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 16 July 2020

I, Julie Poyner, Head of Compliance with 19 years of service with the Trust, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Of the searches undertaken to comply with our Rule 9 request, dated 15 August 2018, please provide a list of searches, including search terms used.

1. Following the original request in 2018 a review was undertaken by an experienced band 7 Haematology Specialist Nurse with an interest in haemophilia care supervised and supported by the Director of the Haemophilia Centre / Consultant Haematologist. The Haematology Nurse Specialist qualified in 1989 and was employed at the Cardiff Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre from 1990, where he received first-hand experience of previous information-gathering exercises with respect to the exposure of patients with bleeding disorders to infected blood products. The Specialist Nurse was granted time on secondment to undertake the review over 5 days, working full time. A comprehensive review of retained centre files and patient case notes was undertaken, with the support of the Health Records Department and local clinical Nurse Specialists. Initial searches were based on the surname, forename and date of birth, where provided. The 'search terms' the Specialist Nurse stated he used were infected blood or blood products, non-A-non-B hepatitis, hepatitis C, hepatitis B, HIV associated with haemophilia and VWD,

bleeding disorders, plus the list of patient names provided in the transfusion laboratory treatment ledgers and other paper records that we found in the department.

Patients (alive and deceased) were identified from the National Haemophilia Database and from historical paper records retained within the Haematology department. Patients born after 2000 were excluded. Centre files were searched for any policies or procedures that may be relevant to the aims of the inquiry. Information was sent to the Inquiry on 10th October 2018 on behalf of both Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust and Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust as the methodology and searches were undertaken by the clinical lead, this information contained the following:

- Policies and procedures.
- Annual returns / factor usage statistics and home treatment records 1985 -2004.
- Evidence of yearly reviews for patients suffering from factor 8 or 9 deficiency.
- Evolution of haemophilia care at Royal Devon and Exeter Foundation Trust /Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust.
- Evidence of patient treatment and support for those unfortunately identified as being infected (includes patients using Haemtrack to record home treatment and tertiary advice from Bristol/Oxford and Great Ormond Street Comprehensive Care Centres).
- Evidence of vaccination for Hepatitis A/B and C with evidence and guidance of the acceptance or refusal of these vaccines.
- Counselling and genetics support for patients and families, including during pregnancy. National guidelines available for the support of haemophilia patients and families available from 2002. DOH guidance 2001, UKHDCO guidance 2005, Haemophilia alliance 2006.
- Specific requests for non-pooled plasma-derived factor, for patients undergoing surgery.
- Evidence of access to the Skipton Fund.
- Usage of MDT to support patient pathways and peer review of services.
- Advice and guidance on infected batches of factor given to patients who received these concentrates.

I can confirm that to the best of Julie Poyner, Head of Governance knowledge, the Access to Records team at NDHCT searched every remaining repository of paper-based information for haematology patients, at Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust. The Haematology Nurse Specialist requested case notes for patients who are still alive and went through those as well.

Section 2: A list of all the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust information repositories (from 1950 to present day) such as local authorities, University archives and The National Archives, for which the Trust had or has any control, responsibility, or oversight.

2. The Trust does not have any external information repositories.

Section 3: With reference to (2), please provide a list of the repositories and archives searched in response to the Rule 9(2) request, dated 15 August 2018.

3. The Access to Records team undertook a comprehensive search of the following systems:
- Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Patient Administration System (PAS) is InterSystems TrakCare Electronic Patient Record
 - Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Pathology System (IPS) Clynisys Labcentre
 - National Summary Care Record (SCR/spine)
 - Microbiology (PHLS) Clynisys Labcentre

The Access to Records team undertook a comprehensive search of paper held records:

- Patient records – Healthcare Records Department
- Trust policies/procedures
- Paper records held locally within the Haematology, Microbiology and Hepatology Departments

Section 4. If the records that were requested in the Rule 9 request, dated 15 August 2018, have been destroyed in line with Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust document retention and destruction policies, please provide copies of the relevant document destruction record or policy as exhibits to the written statement.

4. The Trust's Retention and Destruction of Healthcare Records Policy is exhibited at JP1

The records for the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust patients have not been destroyed records relating to deceased patients are clearly labelled and held within our Healthcare Records Department. I provided a copy of the list of records with the initial response.

I can further confirm that the Trust ceased its case note destruction programme in 2015 following a request from the National Historical Abuse Inquiry and therefore no patient records have been destroyed since that time.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed _____

Dated ____ 16 July 2020 _____

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
16.07.2020	Trust retention and Destruction of Healthcare Records Policy	WITN4521002
	List of records reviewed for the Infected blood Inquiry by Neil Toghill	WITN4521003