

Witness Name: Dr Pooja Khanna

Statement No.: WITN3816002

Exhibits: WITN3816003; WITN3816004;  
WITN3816005

Dated: 5<sup>TH</sup> December 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR POOJA KHANNA

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I provide this further statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 4 November 2019 and further to my first written statement [WITN3816001], dated 8 October 2019, and on which I continue to rely.

I, Dr Pooja Khanna, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1. Introduction**

1. My name is Dr Pooja Khanna. My Date of Birth and Professional Address are known to the Inquiry.
2. The information provided within this further Statement is based upon the contemporaneous medical records held for witness W2000 and facts within my knowledge, save for where I have indicated the source of my information or belief. Where matters are not directly within my knowledge I believe them to be true.

#### **Section 2: Responses to further criticism of witness W2000**

3. I wish to inform the Inquiry that, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019, I met with witness W2000 at which the criticism that witness W2000 has put to the Inquiry was raised. I will set out briefly what I confirmed to witness W2000 at that meeting when the question was put to me.
4. There is no robust scientific evidence that Pegylated Interferon Alpha alpha ("PEG-IFNa") and Ribavarin ("Rib") affects female fertility in an adverse way. This was the

position at the time of my consultations with witness W2000 (from May 2015 until August 2018) and to date.

5. In confirming the above, at Paragraph 4, I rely on the following:
- The BNF does not site any side effects of infertility related to PEG-IFNa or Ribavirin, [Exhibit WITN3816003 and WITN3816004].
  - The European Medicines Agency does not site any fertility related cautions on the use of PEG-IFN2a and Ribavirin [Exhibit WITN3816005].
  - Prior to the availability of Directly Acting Antivirals (DAA), PEG-IFN and Rib has been widely used for treatment of Hepatitis C in young Adults including childbearing women.
  - There are no national or international guidance advising medical professionals to consider the impact on fertility before deciding on treatment with PEG-IFNa and Rib.
  - For my own reassurance and that of witness W2000, I have referred this possible side effect for discussion at our regional Operational Delivery Network (ODN) meeting in October 2019. The consensus view at that discussion (and in considering well over 1000 patients that have been treated with PEG-IGN and Rib at the ODN) was that infertility has not been reported as a problem, and would therefore not be routinely counselled for in practice.
6. I have never knowingly put a patient's health or fertility at undue harm. I am not aware Infertility as a consequence of treatment with PEG-IFN and Rib for Hepatitis C has been scientifically corroborated.

## Section 2: Other Issues

7. There are no other issues that I wish to address in this statement

## Statement of Truth

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

GRO-C

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>m</sup> December 2019

**Table of exhibits:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes/ Description</b>	<b>Exhibit number</b>
4/12/2019	BNF entry for PEG-IFNa	WITN3816003
4/12/2019	BNF entry for Ribavarin	WITN3816004
1/12/2019	EMA entry for PEG-IFNa	WITN3816005