



ADDRESS PROTECTED

Inquiry Secretary
Clostridium Difficile Public Inquiry
Premier Business Centre
20 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB

14th June 2010

Witness Statement re Clostridium Difficile (cdiff)

- 1 I was admitted to the Emergency Department at Antrim Area Hospital on the 14th August 2007 with suspected Meningitis's. I was then moved into a mixed ward where the diagnosis was confirmed and I commenced an extensive course of antibiotics via a continuous drip and regular injections directly into my blood stream.
- 2 On the 15th August I was moved to a mixed medical ward with many of the patients elderly and very confused. As a symptom of the condition, I suffered severe headaches, and due to the other patients who were noisy and very unsettled at night I couldn't sleep. After a number of days of this (17th August) I asked to be moved into another ward or side room as I was exhausted. However I was advised that this was not possible as side wards were only for the "elite" i.e. patients who paid.
- 3 On the 18th August I started to have diahorrea which progressively got worse. On the 19th August I was suddenly moved into a side ward. When I questioned the Consultant later in the week, I was advised that the diahorrea was due to the strong antibiotics which I was being given for the meningitis. I was also advised that I needed to continue with the treatment for ten days to enable the antibiotics to work effectively.

- 4 I was discharged from hospital on the 28th August, however the severe diahorrea continued for at least another week. I continued to take the prescribed treatment for a couple of months to reduce the bacteria in my stomach. However I have continued to suffer regularly from diahorrea and other stomach problems since.
- 5 At no point was I advised that I had cdiff, I was lead to believe that all the problems stemmed from the treatment of meningitis and at the time due to the illness I was not in a position to ask questions and my family were concerned with the effects of meningitis.
- 6 On reflection, there were a number of inconsistencies. While I was on the medical ward, I was allowed to have visitors and the restriction to the number visitors permitted was not enforced, however, once I was moved into the side ward this was enforced to at most two visitors at a time. When the bed was changed cd was written on the mattress. I was also prohibited from using the general toilets in the ward – instead I was given a portable toilet in the room.
- 7 I was not provided with any information or guidance on how to manage the condition, nor was my family advised to enable to take appropriate precautions.
- 8 It was never confirmed by the Consultant or the medical team responsible for my care that I had contracted cdiff

I confirm that the above contents are true

Signed *SIGNATURE PROTECTED*

Date *18/6/2010*