



Witness Statement Ref No

**WITNESS STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE
OUTBREAK OF CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE IN NORTHERN TRUST
HOSPITALS**

WITNESS NAME: RONNIE BELL

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE

I Ronnie Bell say as follows:

1. My mother became acutely ill at home and was eventually diagnosed with CDiff on 22.10.07 by laboratory analysis of stool samples submitted via her GP. She was immediately transferred by ambulance to A & E Dept at Antrim Area hospital. Despite her Doctor's confirmation of CDiff diagnosis, I do not recall her being isolated in A & E, where she had to endure the usual long procedures of that department and trolley wait for a bed.
2. She was eventually transferred to Ward A1 and was isolated in a single room where treatment was commenced and she was barrier nursed.
3. While there, mother relapsed twice, though when thought stable was transferred to the main ward where she unfortunately relapsed again and had to be isolated once more. Thankfully she recovered, but was now so frail that she could not go back home. She was discharged to a private Nursing Home on 19.12.07.
4. I wish to place on record our family's thanks for the perseverance of the Doctors and Nurses who treated and cared for her so diligently while in A1. All hygiene precautions were taken and hand washing and appropriate hygiene information was available to visitors.

5. I feel her transfer to the main ward was premature and a risk to other patients. This transfer was most likely at the behest of some of the numerous managers, who roamed the wards continuously with their clipboards, trying to justify their expensive existence.
6. Mother will be 96 DV later this year and has enjoyed reasonable health since going to the Nursing Home.
7. The family wish to put on record their gratitude to the positive attitude shown by the Doctors and Nurses who treated her in A1 – when at her age she could so easily have been written off as a lost cause.

I declare that, this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed: *Signature Protected*

Dated: *4th July 2010*