



Witness Statement Ref No

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

**WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM DUFFY**

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE**

I, William Duffy, say as follows:

1. I am the husband of Doreen Duffy who was admitted to hospitals suffering from Clostridium Difficile on three separate occasions – first to Mid Ulster Hospital in December 2007, then to Antrim Area Hospital in January 2008 and then again on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008.
2. My wife has provided a statement of evidence to the Inquiry but I can give some further detail on two specific matters that she is unsure of.

**Diagnosis of C difficile at Mid Ulster Hospital**

3. When she was admitted to Mid Ulster Hospital on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2007 the doctor initially thought an operation would be required on her colon but that she was not fit enough to go through one.
4. We were next told that she had the C difficile infection. I do not remember when exactly I was told. This was the first time we had ever heard of that infection. I did not know how bad C difficile could actually be.
5. I remember being told about the symptoms but was definitely not told about complications that can come from it or how long it might last.

### **Second admission to Antrim Area Hospital**

6. On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008 (Easter Monday) my wife was brought by ambulance to A&E of Antrim Area Hospital suffering from symptoms of C difficile again. I accompanied her.
7. She was taken from A&E and put into a large room which looked to me like an operating theatre.
8. Myself and my daughter Anne were able to stay with her in that room. There were no other patients in it and I think that this was maybe to isolate my wife.
9. Both doctors and nurses came in to treat her and take samples. She was receiving fluid to rehydrate her via a drip.
10. I do not remember if gloves and aprons were worn by the doctors and nurses.
11. The diarrhoea was very severe at that time and her clothing and pyjamas were taken away. I recall that we were able to get assistance to change my wife's clothes and make her comfortable.
12. During that time my wife was too ill to use a commode. She remained on a trolley in that room for four or five hours or so. I am not very sure about the time span.

### **Transfer to ward in Antrim Area Hospital**

13. My wife was then transferred to a bed in a six or eight bedded ward that is off the corridor of Ward A1. I am not sure if it was actually part of A1 Ward or not but it is on the right hand side of the A1 corridor. There were other elderly people in the beds alongside my wife.
14. The following day she was moved into a single room in Ward A1. We were not told why she was put in a room on her own.

15. I do not remember being told that she had C difficile on either of the times my wife was in Antrim Area Hospital. I have no comment to make about that. We knew that it was C difficile.

16. At one stage in Antrim a female doctor told me "we can't do anything more for your wife and would you inform the family?" At that time I thought my wife was going to die.

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

Signed *Signature Protected*

Date *19th July 2010*.....