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**Sent:** February 27, 2019 3:08 PM  
**To:** All Users - UHN <[AllUsers-UHN@uhn.on.ca](mailto:AllUsers-UHN@uhn.on.ca)>  
**Subject:** [uhn-allusers-relay] UHN's Statement to the Toronto Star -- sent yesterday to the reporter

Some of you will have read the Toronto Star this morning and below you will find the statement given to the Toronto Star's reporter from University Health Network. Following receipt of the paper from the investigators in early February, the process for a Quality of Care review was implemented at the request of Kevin Smith and Brian Hodges. The first stage of that process is enlisting the services of an external expert with experience in the treatment of thalassemia patients. UHN has requested that our clinician lead and the investigators suggest candidates who have those qualifications.

Gillian H.

### **Statement from University Health Network**

**Deferiprone has been the subject of ongoing attention for many years and the paper, to be published on February 26, 2019 by Drs. Nancy Olivieri, Brenda Gallie and team, is an addition to the literature on the subject. Deferiprone is licensed by the EU, FDA and Health Canada, with slightly different indications, and is included in multiple international standards of thalassemia care as an established therapy.**

**Drs. Olivieri and Gallie made former UHN senior leaders aware of their intent to publish research about two years ago. Requests were made of the researchers at that time to share the paper in draft form because of the concerns the investigators expressed about the drug. The paper was received by current UHN executive leadership on February 12, 2019.**

**The conclusions of the researchers, based on a retrospective look at 96 patient charts with 41 patients having received the drug at some point during their care, provides clinicians and scientists additional information about this drug which has been in regular use around the world for many years. Because the paper and the investigators involved suggested potential quality concerns, UHN will review the cases involved in the research and UHN has requested that the investigators provide this patient data as soon as possible.**

**Gillian Howard**

Vice President, Public Affairs & Communications

University Health Network

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