

My name Jennifer Mellema. I am writing as a widow and wife and a witness to what happened to my husband during COVID.

My husband Doug was a healthy, hardworking working man. He was a personal trainer who didn't drink, smoke or take any medication. He was an early riser and early to bed , regimented in his routine. He loved our 2 little chihuahuas and he was my beloved husband and partner for life.

On July 21 he was tested positive for COVID. His symptoms were cough , low grade fever and chills, like a flu, was told to go home and treat the symptoms and was given a pulse ox to monitor oxygen. He was never one to get sick, he just rested, talking the over the counter medicine recommended and PCP recommended medication.

On July 25 I checked on him and his O2 was in the 80's - I called Doug's PCP and asked what we should do , he said go to the ER. We had extensive conversations about the whole COVID narrative and I knew what he did not want. He walked into the ER on his own.

As I sat in the ER room with room with , the question of, "intubation was asked and Doug relied "NO"!

A Dr. then walked in and asked "Are you vaccinated"?

Doug replies "no"

Dr replies "well maybe if you were you wouldn't be here" and proceeded to walkout the door.

It struck me that a Dr who is supposed to care for the patient would say something like that. During text message conversations with Doug on the first day Dr's, nurses were talking about ICU for a week. I spoke to his PCP that day and he said he'll be out in 24 hrs. Doug indicated the multiple drugs that he was being given and how some of them can trigger other responses that would need additional drugs to counter what they were doing ,one drug being remdesivir known to cause kidney failure, as a person who didn't take medications this was more than a lot for him. To be put on high flow O2 right away seems to have also made things progressively worse.

Then the nightmare got worse when I returned and they said I couldn't come back. The nurses would tell him to get off his phone because it was interfering with what they were doing. As the days followed remdesivir was regularly given and the down fall of all systems noted in his medical records. At one

July 27 , Doug was wanting to leave the hospital, a nurse told him- you are getting supplemental O2 and you will die if you leave. He would tell me that he was thirsty and I asked if had eaten at all, i do not know if food was even being provided. At this time he was still in the ER.

No windows , no daylight , no visitors , total isolation.

At one point I talked to Doug's PCP and we talked about getting a 24 nurse just to sit and advocate - the hospital said "NO" you can't do that.

July 30, As per the medical record notes - patient is very adamant he does not want to be intubated if he tires out on BiPAP and states "I do not want to be kept alive on machines" Would this No the absolute wish of the patient which I his wife knew.

July 31, the hospitalist called me and said " do you give your consent to ventilate"? - I proceeded to ask many questions and stated I wanted to speak to Doug's PCP considering there has been little to no communication to this point about My husband's condition. I said "NO" I want to speak to his PCP first - the Dr, screamed in the phone and said "this is a dying man" I was in complete shock -

Doug was now out of the ER and in the ICU. At one point in time a Nephrologist was consulted and stated Doug be taken off remdesivir and the other Dr said "no".

I never spoke to my husband again after July 30 and I never saw him after July 25- To be locked out, kept out of the decision making process, uninformed. Fighting for medical records for 3 years - still trying to understand completely everything that happened. Hospital protocols took my husband's life and mine!