

My name is Stephanie Contreras. My mother's name is Vickie Lynn Schneppenheim and her death was a result of the COVID19 hospital protocols implemented under the EUA mandate. Vickie served her country in the USMC for almost 25 years, she died at the ripe age of 51, having given almost half of her life to this country, she so very loved and fought to protect.

In January of 2022 Vickie became ill with the omicron variant of COVID-19. After trying to wait out her symptoms at home, her O2 became too low to manage at home so she sought help at Texas Methodist Hospital in Cleburne, TX. Upon arrival she had to be wheeled into the hospital because she could no longer stand from being so ill. The ER was not currently overrun and understaffed at this time, but she waited almost 12hrs to get access to what she needed. She was given high-flow, sat alone in a room and nothing else for almost 24hrs. Her nose cannula had a hole in it and yet, no staff would fix it. Vickie was asked early on by nurses if she had received a COVID-19 vaccine but given her health status was completely healthy and normal, she decided to forgo the shot. Her care began to decline after this question was asked. After asking for monoclonal antibodies, staff refused to administer the treatment for almost 48hrs. She asked for food for 24hrs, soup, because she couldn't breathe enough to eat anything else. She was given burgers and food that a respiratory failure patient would not be able to eat. My family and I were not allowed to be by her bedside to advocate for her despite her being a disabled veteran. Hospital administrators ignored our requests despite her needing what she was obligated to as a disabled veteran. As Vickie began to grow more ill, she was moved to the ICU and given remdesivir under duress despite our family discussing this prior and knowing she didn't want it. With us not being there to advocate for her, Vickie was administered this drug along with high-flow and soon was intubated. CPAP could not be used because improper medication was prescribed and she developed pockets of air in her lungs, preventing the option. Our family pushed for more bedside time, but we were again denied the ability to advocate for her and she was ultimately intubated.

We tried using the right to try act in attempt to use alternative methods of treatment but were once

again denied by the hospital administrators. Once they finally agreed, Vickie died less than 24hrs later. My mother fought on her ventilator for over 14

days. Ultimately, she went into organ failure as a result of remdesivir and the delayed time taken to get her the proper treatment as a respiratory failure patient from the beginning. The hospital protocols denied my mother the advocacy, timeliness and the healthcare options she needed to survive.

After my mother died, the hospital staff refused to sign her death certification for 3 weeks.

She was being cremated and the funeral home could not embalm her because of this. The hospitals protocols once again failed my mother in death and as her body began to

decompose. We were unable to have her ashes at her own funeral services because of this. It is horrific what families endured and my hope is that policy will change so

that no other family must endure this kind of torment ever again.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. God bless and Godspeed,
sir.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Contreras

US Army Veteran