

I thought my husband was having a stroke. After waking up, he tried to walk to the bathroom and collapsed. He could say some words but could not get up. I called EMS. They took him to UF Health Shands Hospital.

I was not allowed to visit him at the hospital because of their Covid policy. The Dr called me and said my husband had covid, not a stroke. I asked the Dr if they could give him the IV antibody treatments that were becoming available late during 2021. They said it was “too late” for that type of treatment. I asked about giving him the IV vitamins, antibiotics and ivermectin that I had read about. They told me it “wasn’t part of the protocol”. I told the Dr he was using Nicotine gum at home in an effort to quit chewing tobacco and the Dr did agree to give him some nicotine patches.

I tried talking to my husband by phone. He seemed very confused and wanted to come home. He couldn’t operate the phone properly and it locked him out. I sent his ipad to the hospital so we could FaceTime, with the help of the nurses. Once the nurses made the connection, I was able to see him and try to have a conversation. He had a breathing mask on, seemed very disoriented and couldn’t carry on a coherent conversation. One of the nurses said he had fallen from the bed, twice, trying to get up.

The Dr would call me and let me know how he was doing, medication they were trying and any results from tests completed. My husband became more disoriented each day and his oxygen requirement was increasing. He repeatedly asked if he could come home each time I was able to FaceTime with him. This haunts me every day.

I was aware of the dangers of Remdesivir so whenever I spoke with the Dr I’d tell them “Do Not Give Him Remdesivir” They asked me why not and I told them I had read about it causing kidney failure. He was moved to the intensive care unit. I kept asking to visit. Sometimes they would say he has to test covid negative for 21 days then they said I could visit 28 days after testing covid negative. I asked if the hospital pastor could speak with him.

By the time they let me see him, he was sedated and intubated, breathing by ventilator. I did not see any Nicotine patch on him. He never responded to me. He had lost about 50 pounds in body weight. He had bedsores. He had sores on his tongue from the breathing tube pressing on it.

I knew then he wasn’t going to make it. It was the blood pressure drugs and the ventilator keeping him alive. The Dr started talking about doing a tracheostomy. I requested a Palliative Care consult. I signed a DNR.

My Husband, my soul mate, a father, a brother, an uncle, a retired law enforcement officer, died, a month after entering the hospital. He did not deserve to be treated this way, nobody would. His death certificate states covid pneumonia as cause of death.

This is a “Magnet Hospital”, so proud of their “Patient Centered Care”. I believe it was the “Covid Hospital Protocol” which prevented my husband from healing.

I miss him every day.

Thank you,

Terry Sullivan