

INQUIRY INTO OFF-PROTOCOL PRESCRIBING OF CHEMOTHERAPY IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 23 October 2016

Partially
Confidential

my name is _____ I would like to place a submission regarding chemotherapy under-dosing and Dr.

Grygiel. i was diagnosed with colo- rectal cancer in 2011 and attended a surgeon at Macquarie University Hospital and was directed before an operation to have radiation and chemotherapy.

I saw Dr. Grygiel and was prescribed a chemotherapy called "Zeloda" one tablet twice a day for the duration of the radiation treatment and was told that because of the radiation the strength of the drug would be increased eight times. I can never remember being weighed or my height taken I saw the Radiation Doctor on a weekly basis while having treatment I but never saw Dr. Grygiel during this time. After the operation to remove the rectal cancer I was advised to continue the chemotherapy but because I live in Dubbo and a new oncology section had been opened in Orange central N.S.W. and could see Dr. Grygiel there.

I attended Orange on a very hot December day for my appointment at 5 pm ,when I arrived with my daughter was told that the doctors plane had been delayed and could I return in one hour luckily we had come with a sandwich and a bottle of soft drink , we returned in one hour and were told that the doctor was not there yet would we be staying in Orange overnight to which we replied no and asked to come back later

We returned half an hour later and I was told the doctor was settled in his motel room and would not come to the hospital that evening I was given a hand written piece of paper and told to follow the instructions on same this included 2 Zeloda twice a day for 14 days have a one week off have a blood test on the following 6th day and a G.P visit to determine if my bloods were alright .

I commenced the chemotherapy went to my G.P for the results of the blood test and the G.P. did not know how to read the blood test.

My next appointment with Dr. Grygiel was some time in the new year .I presented at the oncology department with a friend of mine we went into see Dr. Grygiel his first words were "who are you" I gave him my name then he said and when are you having your operation I explained it had been done at the end of November I told him that I had come to see him in December but he was too busy in his motel room to see me and the staff member had given me a hand written note with my instructions on what to do he said just carry on as you have been doing I asked him was this chemotherapy routine he said he did not have any pathology reports . I said to him my G.P. did not understand the blood test he said to me just tell him to phone me and i will explain

I left there very upset and disillusioned had no confidence in the doctor as he did not appear to be very familiar with my case said to my friend well that was a waste of time she agreed

I returned home to Dubbo decided to ring my surgeon and let him know I was dissatisfied with the Oncology doctor and would not be seeing him again to which he replied you must come down to Sydney and have a mediation with him to smooth out the troubles.

Reluctantly I went to Sydney to see Dr. Grygiel I went with my sister as he arrived and I heard him say has she arrived yet, the receptionist nodded in my direction and we entered Prof _____ rooms and sat down and he proceeded to ask what the misunderstanding was all about to which I replied the first visit to Orange you would not come out of your motel

room and the next time you did not know my name and the fact that I had even had an operation he commenced to say that was typical of country hospitals you know that is how it works in the country .Prof entered the room and he continued to say how poorly the country hospitals were and he had to go now that we understood each other.Prof

looked at me as I broke down and cried as I thought how badly I had been treated by this man.

I then applied to Dubbo to have my treatment and was advised to take Zeloda three tablets twice a day and see the oncologist every three weeks I thought how different this treatment was and I could not understand why the dose was different if one tablet twice a day was sufficient with why now 3 twice a day which increased to 7 tablet a day

I was then one year later diagnosed with cancer in the lungs which had travelled from the bowel and later the bowel cancer came out twice on my back it has now settled in nodes in my lung

I think i was poorly treated by this doctor and I am complaining not just for myself but for all the other people many who are not about to tell their story and for the rude arrogant attitude he had . All those sick people did not deserve that treatment, when you are sick with cancer you deserve somebody who is very sympathetic and understanding