

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 7 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

I was pregnant with my second child and due on _____, I was allocated to midwife _____ on caseload at _____ public hospital. I had a number of checkups and was extremely satisfied in the service I received from _____. _____ and I chose to book in for a scheduled induction on _____, the day _____ returned from annual leave. Due to contracting covid on the _____ I was informed by another caseload midwife that I would have to attend the hospital _____ (public) the morning prior to the scheduled appointment to have cervadil inserted, I was informed that if I did not have covid I could go home, however due to having covid I would need to remain in the hospital and would be put into a covid room located within the maternity postnatal ward. We were told we could not leave the room, order food or drinks and remain in there for the duration of our stay.

I attended on the morning of _____ with my husband and met the caseload midwife. She explained to me that she was inserting the cervadil and if I begin to have pain I could request panadine or endone for the pain but if the pain relief did not ease the pain I was probably going into labour. The midwife inserted the cervadil at about 9.30am. I began to get contractions around an hour later, to the point I pressed my buzzer and requested pain relief. The midwife on duty (not the caseload midwife) attended the room, she placed her hand on my stomach and told me I was not having contractions it was a side effect from the cervadil. We had a joke and I said it's quite painful I must have a low pain threshold. Shortly after a dr attended and spoke with me asking if I wanted to go home and not be induced because I had covid and it would cause complications if I need to have a cesarean. I called the caseload midwife to ask advice and she told me to tell the dr that I choose to stay because she had already inserted the cervidil. During the conversation with the dr I was having quite intense contractions and he laughed at me and said I was not in labour although he never checked me. I then called the midwife back into the room and asked for an epidural as I was in labour and couldn't handle the pain, and her response was to get me endone. The midwife was out of the room for another half an hour where I was experiencing bad contractions, I called the midwife in again, where a different nurse attended and was rude to me saying your not in labour but as I was having a contraction she told me to breath through it, once the contraction ended I said I had timed them and they are lasting for 45 seconds and 1-2 mins apart. I was then told again I was not in labour.

The other midwife then came back into the room and told me there was no endone so gave me one panadine and one Paracetamol tablet. I asked them to get the dr back in and I would like the cervadil to be removed if I was not in labour because it was causing me too much pain and I wanted to go home and reassess with _____ when she returned from leave. A doctor attended and said he would remove it and told me that the pain should ease in about 30 minutes. I was then informed that I was 3 cms and I would have to keep the monitors on to monitor the baby. About 5 minutes after the dr and nurse left I called the nurse and asked her to remove the monitor I needed to do a poo she joked with me and said do you need to push out a baby and I responded apparently im not in labour I then removed the monitor myself, ran to the bathroom and screamed as I had the most intense contractions while sitting on the toilet. No nurse attended to me during this time. I came out of the bathroom and placed my face on the concrete wall in excruciating pain crying to my husband asking why no one believed me and that I needed an epidural. My husband called the nurse again and I sat on the bed screaming during contractions, no nurse came in and during a contraction my water broke on the bed and I was in the most unbearable pain screaming as loud as I could, the nurse then came in and I told her my baby's head was coming out, I was then told I had

to push and it was too late for any pain relief, I pushed twice and after delivering my son I received a 3b tear. After this I was eventually wheeled through the maternity ward to the covid delivery ward, my husband and I were left in there for six hours alone, i received no help in latching my baby, no assistance to go to the bathroom, my husband asked for some food and he received a toasted sandwich which was put on a tray and slid under the covid sheet along the floor to him because the nurse said she didn't want to put on the covid ppe. I was told I was going to surgery due to the tear however no time could be given. I had my son at 3.20pm and I was in the delivery suite until 10pm. A nurse attended and took me without giving me the opportunity to say goodbye to my son or husband, no nurse had weighed my son or checked his overall health until after I went to surgery. He was not touched by a nurse or dr since he arrived in the ward. I then went to surgery where I was told that I was not able to go under general anaesthetic due to having covid and I would need a spinal block and be awake for the full surgery. After the surgery I remained on a bed in the operating suite for an hour and a half waiting to be taken to my room where my husband and child was. I was told the delay was because there was no security available to clear the corridors. I was then required to stay in hospital for quite a few days in a covid room with no air conditioning the place I gave birth and unable to leave the room due to requiring antibiotics.

I have not complained earlier because everytime I thought about my experience I would become anxious and stressed. I am absolutely disgusted in the way I was treated during the birth of my last child, it was traumatic, I felt like an inconvenience and a nuisance to health staff. My son is now 18 months old and I am still seeking therapy and on anti depressants.