

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

I would like to ask that whilst you are reading through my experience that you take a moment to think of the special women in your life and ask if you would be ok with them being treated the way I was.

When my husband and I found out we were pregnant with our first baby we were over the moon.

My pregnancy was a relatively easy one, I was well, no morning sickness and generally felt really good each day.

I chose shared care and was told to see the midwives at the

I was nervous about my first appointment and when I got there I met _____ and felt at ease instantly.

She was wonderful.

It was my appointments after that that were inconsistent.

I saw a different midwife each time.

I was told sometimes when I came in for my appointment that they couldn't book my next appointment as they didn't have access.

There were inconsistencies every time. One of my appointments I was told I would need to have an anti D shot. The midwife that spoke to me about it told me that if I didn't have it it would have "dire consequences"

As a first time mum those words sounded really scary. There was minimal explanation of those dire consequences.

On the day I returned to have the anti d shot the midwife told me that they didn't have any and that I would need to go to the hospital to have it instead.

I was upset by this as I had been told about the "dire consequences" of not having it done.

Whilst the midwife was out of the room I overheard her speaking about me inappropriately to another midwife. I popped my head out the door and mentioned to the woman that I could hear her talking about me.

On another of my appointments when I got back to my car after the appointment I found that the midwife had put her run sheet in my pack. It had other women's personal information on it.

I called and made a complaint to a _____ that said she was a manager. I am unsure if complaint was recorded.

I also remember asking if I could have just one more scan. My last scan was at 28 weeks and I remember thinking at the time 10+ weeks is a long time to not see or check on our baby. I was assured that everything was fine and there was no need for another scan.

On the _____ 2015 I went into labor and attended the _____ Hospital.

It seemed to all start to happen quite quickly.

I was in labor for approx 4 - 5 hours and in that time had a few different midwives.

The first one was wonderful but unfortunately his shift ended.

The second midwife that came in had such a strong perfume on that I had to ask my husband to see if we could change to another one as it was making me feel ill.

The 3rd midwife then stayed with me for the remainder of my labor.

I remember her calling me love/sweetie which I asked a few times for her to call me by my name as I didn't like to be called love or sweetie.

I recall being in the shower and being told to feel between my legs as that was my baby's head.

I remember thinking wow I have got this, I can do this, not too long to go now.

I remember the midwife asking me to get out of the shower and come and lie on the bed.

There wasn't any point that anyone asked me what I wanted or how I felt most comfortable.

I remember my husband asking the midwife to get someone to check on me as he didn't think things were progressing.

The doctor came and I was asked to lay on the bed to have an internal done.

They then identified that our little one was breech.

It was at this stage that I had to make a decision whether to go in for a c section.

My husband and I asked for a few minutes to decide.

The doctor came back into the room and we were advised we now didn't have a choice that we would have to have an emergency c section.

I have always wondered a few things about this part - why is an internal or a scan not done as soon as a mother presents to the hospital to see where the baby and mum are at to make a plan of what to do.

My internal wasn't done until approx 4 hours into my labor. And that was the first time the doctor came into the room.

As I was taken into theatre I was petrified. To give you a bit of background about me I lost my mum to brain cancer when I was 11. She was operated on and passed away at the Hospital.

My husband was asked to wait outside while they took me in. This felt like the longest time and I wasn't told why he couldn't be right there with me.

Once in theatre the anethethist started to give me the needle.

There was nil communication when going into theatre what needles and why, it was put in mid contraction and I was told just to keep still.

When the doctor starting cutting me I could feel everything, the epidural felt like it didn't work.

I screamed and told the anesthetist that I could feel pain and being cut

He kept saying it's just the pressure

Finally gave me more gas after bub was out and it felt like I was then given too much.

I couldn't look at my daughter when they wheeled her past as I was in so much pain.

I could feel every stitch going into my belly.

No one told me the seriousness of the situation, I didn't know my baby wasn't breathing until the next day when my husband told me.

Imagine one of the most important times in your life and you feel like you were just a spectator, or even worse that I was in the back row.

I couldn't see and didn't know what was happening I was just there. There was no involvement for me, and such poor communication.

After the labor our little girl was taken to nicu. My poor husband after watching me go through this had to decide between leaving me or going with our baby. There was no choice for me - I sent him with her. After my experience I didn't want anyone to be alone with our baby girl. The level of trust was gone.

Prior to going into labor my only requests were that there wouldn't be any students involved in my care and that I could take my placenta home.

Whilst in recovery the anethethist came and asked me about my placenta. He asked me why I wanted to keep it.

I started to explain that I had lost my mum when I was younger and that I had looked into placenta encapsulation to assist with the symptoms of PND. I was mid conversation with him about this when he walked away.

His professionalism was atrocious. Whether he agreed with what I was doing or not he could have had the decency to listen to me.

Once out of recovery and back on the ward I found out that my husband couldn't stay with me.

Again I was being left alone.

Just hours after major surgery and with a brand new baby I was scared and alone. My husband was able to get us into a room the next day that meant he could stay with me which was wonderful and such a great relief. I could begin my recovery with someone to support me.

The midwives again were inconsistent. Some I saw a lot and other not much at all.

Previously I asked for no students to be involved in my care, and they were there for some of the tests

Whilst we're staying there and once I was able to walk my husband and I were in the hallway when the

nursing manager approached us to ask how our care was. This was a very inappropriate time to ask and should have been done in private.

For each of the tests done on our baby either my husband or I made sure we were with her. We didn't let anyone take her without us. As we were getting ready to leave and go home my husband asked about the test that is done on her foot and when that would be done.

We were told that it had already been done. When we pushed further to check the paperwork we found that it was incorrectly done on another baby and my details placed on the paperwork

My husband had to argue with the lady in charge plus 2 other midwives that it hadn't been done on our daughter.

The impact that the level of care I received has had on me has been horrible. It took me 3 years to write this and my experience is always on the back of my mind.

I have been scared at the thought of having another baby and don't know how I can trust the professionals to provide the care that I should have had.

I felt like a number, that the staff didn't care. Seemed like the manager checked on us in the hallway just to tick a box and say that she had checked and we were fine.

I Received a phone call from my original midwife asking me
Where i was for my appt and that I was overdue
I advised her I had our baby 3 weeks ago

It's almost like there are not enough processes in place to avoid errors

I was very lucky to have my husband with me but I often think what if I was a single mum, going through this on my own.

If anything is to come from my experience I would hope that my feedback will at least give some insight to assist with things like this not happening in the future.

I would like one day to meet and talk with the people involved in my care to tell them face to face how much they have effected me. I'm not sure if this is something that is possible at all.

I would at least like to know that my complaint has been acknowledged and explained as to why these things occurred and what should have happened and also what happens now in these types of situations.