

Submission
No 128

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

From the moment I was admitted to Wagga base hospital to have my son I was unhappy with the care I was provided, straight away I felt as if it was a race to get me out of there.

I went into labour naturally and left for hospital (from Tumut) when my contractions were 4 minutes apart, I got checked once we arrived at 5.30am on [redacted] 2022 and I was 3cm dilated.

At 10.30am I was still 3cms (but my cervix was shortening) and then they broke my waters, when they did that there was meconium present so Bub was monitored closely, by 11am they started the syntocinon drip because I wasn't progressing 'fast enough', I had been coping on gas and air until the drip was started but then I needed an epidural.

Bub kept going into distress after the drip was started, and at about 7pm the drs told me that I was fully effaced but only 6cms dilated so we needed to consider a c-section as Bub kept going into distress, they said they could give me a few more hrs if I wanted to see if I dilated, but I am so glad I said just to get him out if something was wrong.

[redacted] was born via emergency c-section at 8.21pm, my surgeons were lovely and I was happy with the care they provided, as well as my main midwife [redacted] who was amazing, but as soon as my little boy was born he was whisked away to the resuscitator where he was resuscitated and then taken by the paediatrician to the special care nursery to be put on oxygen and have a tube put down his throat, I was not allowed to go straight to see him after I was stitched up, instead I had to go to recovery.

When I eventually got to the special care nursery to see him it was about 9.30, the nurse who was looking after him in the nursery was amazing, as he did not make it easy for her!

There was another nurse there though who I saw multiple times over the next few days who I was appalled with, I am sure she was racist as she was only rude and judgemental of the nurses of different ethnicity and at one point I even heard her tell a baby who was on oxygen that she was 'caring' for to stop crying because it was annoying her, she was older with grey hair always pulled up very messy, and constantly ground her teeth, unfortunately I did not get her name.

After 6hrs on oxygen [redacted] was able to come off it and came back to my shared room with me, this was pretty tough being a new mum having just had a c-section and then having to say goodbye to my husband because I was in a shared room with a mum who let her baby cry and that baby cried constantly, I even heard her tell her husband she wore noise canceling headphones at night.

Day 2 and I noticed [redacted] had redness around his umbilical cord, I pointed it out to the nurses who then got the paediatrician to come and look, after blood tests and swabs it was determined he had MRSA, although all we were told was he had a 'little' infection, it wasn't until we were back in Tumut and went into hospital here for a checkup that they told us what the infection was (MRSA) and just how serious that staph infection is and that is due to cross contamination in medical settings!

[redacted] ended up having to have a cannula put in at not even 2 days old and was put on strong antibiotics by IV for 3 days followed by 4 days of oral antibiotics at home.

Day 2 was also the one and only time I was checked by the drs and despite mentioning to nurses and midwives that I was still passing large clots on day 3 I was never seen by drs again and was discharged on day 4 but told I could pay to board a bed as [redacted] was still admitted

to the special care nursery, I opted to pay to board but then later that day was told they needed my bed so set my husband and I up in the family room in the special care nursery, I don't know why this wasn't done from the beginning.

In my time on the ward I was very rudely and abruptly at about 5.30am told by a midwife/nurse I could not co-sleep because a mother had rolled on her baby in hospital and killed it so it was not allowed, all I was doing was giving my baby a cuddle after I had fed him, and while experiencing the third day blues this same midwife told me she was taking my baby to the nursery because I wasn't sleeping, I had been crying because of the third day blues, my husband having to leave me and my baby needing antibiotics at a few days old and no I was not sleeping because I was in a shared room!!! The last thing I needed was my baby taken away! (Even though he was admitted to the special care nursery he was allowed to stay with me and we just took him there for his antibiotics). After being told by this very rude older nurse that she was taking my baby, a lovely young midwife/nurse came in (I think her name was _____ - she was a _____) and leant down beside my bed and listened to me as I explained why I was crying and she was so caring and understanding, she then offered to take _____ after his next feed for a few hrs so that I could get some rest and promised not to leave his side and said she would bring him back as soon as he woke up for his next feed, I felt so much more comfortable allowing her to take my precious baby. (A baby we had been trying to conceive for 3 years and had gone through fertility treatment and I had undergone surgery for my endometriosis as well before I fell pregnant so he is extra precious and special to us).

On day 6 _____ was discharged and we were sent home, that night I started getting severe fevers and the next day presented at Tumut hospital, I had a serious infection in my uterine lining that took 2 courses of strong antibiotics to clear up. So not only was I a brand new mum, I had just had a c-section, my baby had MRSA and then I had a bad infection as well!

Ever since birth _____ has had terrible problems with reflux and wind resulting in him not sleeping and I strongly believe that the high dose antibiotics he had to have as a newborn have contributed to his stomach problems, the other thing that has contributed is his 75% tongue tie that never got picked up even though I had trouble feeding him and saw a lactation consultant, he will be 2 days off 8 moths old when it gets snipped as I have been constantly dismissed by the community nurses, my gp and the paediatrician we have seen, I had to go to Canberra to find someone to really listen to me and she straight away saw the tongue tie which I had pointed out to one of the community nurses in one of _____ early appointments, but that is a battle for another day.

Overall my experience at Wagga Base hospital was horrible and I will not be having any future babies there. Canberra is further away but I would happily travel the extra distance if it means not having to go through what I did in Wagga again.

There is so much more I could say so for any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.