

Submission  
No 184

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 2 August 2023

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Partially  
Confidential



30/6/2023

**MCN Complaint Form**

**Name:**

**Contact:**

**Phone:**

**Admission Date:** 2022 & 2023

**Hospital:** Hospital

**Witnesses:** (partner)

**Ward:** Maternity

**Care Providers of Concern:** Midwife Reg No.

**Type of Mistreatment:** Medical negligence, sexual violence, no informed consent

**Birth Story:**



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I am writing to complain about my birth experience, and I am seeking some actions for better care for my current pregnancy.

I was admitted to the ward on [redacted] last year around 3:00 pm for pre-eclampsia concerns and had an induction on the [redacted]. I was pushed by a midwife into making a birth choice between induction and caesarean and had to decide because she told me the surgeons knock off at 3 pm. The midwife ([redacted]) did a vaginal examination that I found was extremely painful. I asked her to stop, but she ignored me and continued to sexually assault me causing me extreme distress and pain. I felt violated and now have trauma from this sexual assault alone.

This midwife did not change her gloves between examinations (which I didn't consent to), which I believed caused me to have infected amniotic fluids with a rare bacterium that eventually caused a seroma/infection in my caesarian and my baby to end up very sick after birth.

I was pressured into a caesarean section because they kept telling me my baby would be too big. I eventually "consented" to one and my son ended up being 3.5 kilos-normal.

However, my baby as mentioned was sick after birth and was in the NICU for 2 to 3 weeks. When I questioned what caused it, I was told by NICU medical staff that the hospital has no idea how he got sick or where the rare bacteria came from.

I was discharged with an infected caesarean scar despite me complaining about it. I complained for the 2 weeks while I was on the post-natal ward about it. They barely looked at it and told me it was fine. They did not do a swab. I am a Type 2 diabetic so my wounds do heal slower which I don't think they took into consideration.

I was forced to sleep on a pull-out sofa after a c section in the nicu once I was discharged with no pain relief as I was not given education or advice about what to take or do. I was leaking infected c section wound seroma, that took weeks for a doctor to finally address after constantly complaining about it.

I continued to ask the NICU and Maternity Ward to look at my wound and about the leaking. They sent me a form to get an ultrasound as an outpatient instead of re-admitting.

The hospital told me the seroma in the ultrasound found was 'normal.'

Community nurses would come every two days to my house to change the dressings.



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The wound began to smell, but they told me it was normal. Then I started to feel weird/foggy. I rang maternity complaining and demanded someone finally do something about it.

It basically ended up becoming necrotic and I became septic 5 weeks post-partum. I ended up on IV antibiotics for a week and a special dressing was on my wound.

I complained and It took 6 months for someone to finally call me back at the maternity complaints department. I had called in a few times complaining and it took a lot of shuffling before someone called me back.

I covered some things with this midwife manager, I believe, of which she didn't give a satisfactory answer and mostly told me she didn't know why I was told xyz.

She told me , "we're a 24 hour hospital, people can give birth at anytime, I don't know why they pressured you to do that & told you doctors knock off at 3"

I was originally told I had to have my waters broken because my baby will be big due to my type 2 diabetes during the induction. My son wasn't born large at all. He was perfect weight, and the doctors were all even surprised he wasn't large.

Also, the infectious diseases doctor, I believe his name is and a few others, told me when I was finally being treated, that this rare bacteria strains I had were from my over-hang and is naturally occurring there. Which made no sense considering what the midwife did earlier. I feel they were trying to pass off the cause of the issue.

All of this basically rushing me within an hour, for literally nothing, and ruining my birthing experience. I could have gone ahead with a natural Labor if I wanted to, but was pressured into a c section because I felt like I had to rush for the surgeons sake before they "left for the day" and then of course the infection I believe was caused by the midwife.

-I am now pregnant again & due in January. I'm scared of what my next treatment will be as I am currently pregnant again. I went to emergency on the for suspected miscarriage because I was bleeding. They did a blood test and a urine test. But refused to organize an ultrasound or help. No education about miscarriage and what to expect or do despite asking. I haven't had a miscarriage before so wasn't sure what to expect.



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### What outcomes would you like to see?

I would like an apology for my experiences.

I would like changes to the hospital and the staff involved in my care to receive training/recommendations on infection control especially for those with diabetes.

I would like acknowledgement in my file for extra monitoring for me post-partum if I have a cesarean for my next birth

I would like the staff to receive training on monitoring cesarean wounds if there is suspicion one will be of high risk for infection like in my case.

I would like staff to understand consent can be withdrawn and they must stop a procedure if told to do so.

I would like to see training for the staff involved in my care to listen to their patients, not dismiss them if concerns are raised to do proper clinical checks.

I would like changes to how they handle complaints. Such as using my feedback to bring policy changes and/or training.



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