

Submission
No 454

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

20/9: 36+5 weeks. water broke at 6am so we went to the hospital at 8am to meet the midwife. Hooked up to monitor baby. Midwife says I must be getting niggles of contractions but I can't really feel them. Examined by obstetrician. Went for a walk to get lunch and ended up busting out and going to Thai. Refused antibiotics. Was going to go home but bloods were a little off so I compromised and stayed. Transferred to maternity ward.

I am monitored again, asked the lady if I was contracting as I felt crampy. She says no. Mum and [REDACTED] leave around 8.30. I have some ritz and play on my phone. Starting to feel mild cramps so I take Panadol around 10.30 and try to sleep but can't. I get up and try working through them. I miss a call from [REDACTED] at 11.30 but decide not to call back and wake him

21/9: around 12am I start timing contractions 8 mins apart. By 1am they are 3/4 mins apart so I buzz nurse and ask if I should call my husband. She says no, you aren't in labour what is he going to do at this time? She says I need to take panadeine forte and diazepam to rest because tomorrow I will be in labour. I say if it's going to make me drowsy I don't want it in case I am in labour. I say this a few times. While she has gone to get the medication another nurse comes in and gets me to lean on her and sway through the contraction. She then takes me for a walk down the hallway and says this will help and to hold the rails to get through a contraction. The African nurse comes at us saying what are you doing? She needs to be in bed she needs to rest. So they take me back to bed. The nice nurse suggests that maybe they should check me and call birthing unit. The African says no they will only ask us to give her this medicine anyway so we will give her that first. Again I say I don't want anything to make me drowsy and they assure me if I'm in labour that the medication won't do anything and to buzz in half an hour if I'm still in pain. I take the medication reluctantly but in trust of the nurse that I need a rest to get through the day tomorrow. Tells me not to call my husband

The nice nurse puts my bed up high and leaves me leaning over it to sway out contractions. I'm extremely drowsy and on the nod. Legs buckling from falling asleep between contractions completely alone. I buzz them to come back. Not sure what happened between that time but at 3.30am they check me and they can see a head. So they then check and I am 9cm dilated. They tell me to call my husband immediately and rush me to birthing unit.

On the way I vomit. I transfer into a new bed. [REDACTED] and mum arrive shortly after. I start to push on my side, move to leaning over the back of the bed, then to little seat on the floor. Then back on the bed on my side, then on my back. Pushing for at least 2 hours. Sucking hard on gas. Eventually he arrives at 8.16am.

I then birth placenta and hemmorage and lose 900ml of blood. I have to get the syntocin jab just in case.

A surgeon comes to stitch me as it's not a common tear and midwife isn't confident. I get 2 stitches and a catheter. I suck on the gas and am pretty out of it. Nurse inserts iv antibiotics wrong and my hand blows up so she takes it out and it never gets put back in

I then get up to shower and pass out while drying myself.

The way I was treated by the nurse initially looking after me affected me for a long time after birth, I feel it contributed to my PPA. I feel I was drugged against my will and bullied. Along with her bullying the nurse who wanted to help me. I also believe this is due to the under staffed hospital and having no space in birthing unit for me to go in. This was my first baby and while my story is mild compared to others I'm absolutely appalled by it and can't imagine what other go through.

Including my sister who had a horrendous experience at the same hospital and has ended up with sever mental illness following it.

Her story is-

She got induced, they tried to suck the baby out causing head trauma and bad grazing to the babies head. Made a mess of her vagina which needed alot of stitching. Emergency c section so add that to the recovery. No breastfeeding help. She was left sitting on the side of her bed alone for 4 hours unable to move due to them forgetting to come back and check on her. She was left a crying mess, drowsy on drugs, unable to get up to her baby and had her visitors forced to leave her in this way once visiting hours were up. A disgusting way to treat a new mother who's birth dreams were crushed and felt she was violated and not looked after. We all know the importance of caring for a new mum and more than anything, the hospital staff should know this.

All at [REDACTED] Hospital