

Paul Langevin
Letter to Editor

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Also submitted to public hearing on access to primary care, 1/23/2018

Subject: Need for Single Payer/Universal Health Care and Accountability of Health Care System to provide the Highest Standards of Care.

My wife Jeanette died 1-23-14 of cancer. She was being treated and in remission for thyroid cancer from 2008. She died from a cancer originating in lung and was a type of cancer that women get who do not smoke. She never smoked.

Jeanette sought medical attention from Stow Family practice last November for chronic cough. She was informed she may have allergies. She then persisted to seek medical attention from FAHC and the doctor she had seen for care/remission of thyroid cancer. This resulted in her being X Rayed and tested and as a result she cancer was discovered and at stage 4 an advanced stage. Cancer spread to most all her internal organs.

I consulted with FAHC doctor after her death as to why testing was not done during her remission from thyroid cancer surgery in order to detect any growth of cancer besides thyroid cancer. I was informed that would be Cost Prohibited and may not provide conclusive results.

Prior to her thyroid cancer Jeanette sought medical care from Stowe Family Practice as she did not feel well. She was informed that it is likely hormones. She consulted FAHC and was diagnosed with cancer and got treatment.

Jeanette fought hard to complete radiation during this past January. We were looking forward to engage a chemotherapy pill with the hopes of having some level of recovery. The Insurance Company BC/BS denied the payment of the Pills (5) times and said they needed to find the cheapest vendor for Pills. The Pills were eventually delivered the day she died at FAHC and were tossed onto our deck in 20 below zero weather.

- I consulted with an attorney on possible medical malpractice. I was informed that the Standards of Care were followed but we agreed that the Standards are simply Not Higher and certainly not Patient Center but rather centered on Cost Containment.

COST CONTAINMENT OVER PATIENT CENTERED is not acceptable.

I believe the absence of higher standards of care and absence of accountability to affect change with this current Health Care System played a role in Jeanette's death. If there was a Standard that detailed types of testing while in remission for other forms of cancer I believe Jeanette may be with us still.

I find it unacceptable there is no Accountability to patient care in our current health care system and that a single payer system would be more accountable to the public as the public would be paying for this. If the government did not provide Patient Centered service we the public would vote them out of office and that is power. In current system the insurance companies and hospital administrators determine Standards and are focused on Cost Containment and Profits ----- not Higher Standards of Care.

I ask that you the reader consider this letter with an eye towards objectivity and not biased by religious and or political perspective. Health Care is a Human Right. We are all in need of the highest standards of health care and a system accountable to the Patient.

Sincerely,

Paul Langevin

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