

RE: Complaint No. MD00019062

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March 26, 2007

Yinka Windapo, RN, BSN
DHMH Office of Health Care Quality
Spring Grove Center – Bland Bryant Building
55 Wade Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

Dear Ms. Windapo,

As a follow up to my letter of February 20, I am enclosing the [Holy Cross Hospital Administrative Manual entitled “Consent To Withhold Or Withdraw Life-sustaining Treatment.”](#) It contains copies of the various forms that must be completed and put into a patient’s record, including the Certificate of Condition form alluded to in my previous letter.

I had asked the hospital whether such regulations or forms existed or were required in an [October, 2004 letter](#) and in all subsequent conversations with them, yet received no reply. I was only able to obtain this manual through a lawsuit, under rules of discovery. The admitting physician has also testified at a deposition that my father was full-code from the time he left the ICU until the day he died – and that he was getting better up until the very end, when this doctor went on vacation.

You have conclusive evidence of a full-code patient on the road to recovery, a medical record missing the critical forms required by hospital policy and state law to withhold life saving treatment, and a surrogate insisting that his requests for such treatment were refused.

As I’ve stressed in the past, from my perspective the hospital should be made to account for this even if it happened to my father alone. However, common sense suggests that there should be concern that this was not an isolated event but rather indicative of the culture of care toward the elderly at Holy Cross Hospital.

Thanks again for your efforts in investigating this case.

Sincerely,

Alexander H. Neustadter

Encl