

Death Pathway

On the 23rd October, my mother was visited by Pip Davis from St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich. I have no idea who invited her but suspect it was a District Nurse. She requested that Co-Codamol was stopped and Oramorph (morphine) started. A Dr.Hague agreed. They did not discuss or justify this with me at any point which they surely should have done but typical of the way the NHS behaves. On the 30th.October a Dr. Sarah Trigg visited and a hospice nurse, Margaret Llewellyn, subsequently applied a syringe driver for the morphine. We visited a couple of days later, it was very distressing to see my mother in that condition, comatose waiting to die. Years later when I received my mother's care documentation, I did ask St Elizabeth Hospice why they had started my mother on the death pathway without any consultation with me, but they very conveniently had destroyed their records. On the 6th.November, my mother passed away. I am told that it was highly unusual for someone to pass away in a Residential Home under Hospice care.

The sight of my mother's body after she had died will always haunt me until the day I die. She had lost an enormous amount of weight, she was just skin and bone. In effect she had starved to death, the most undignified end to her life that you could imagine. In reality, because of the manner in which she was sedated, she should have been in a Hospice but that was never mentioned. From what I have read about dying from Alzheimer's, to be sedated with morphine is unusual. If ever there was case for justifiable euthanasia, this was it. It upsets me still to think of the pain and suffering my mother went through towards the end and it angers me somewhat that no-one had the decency to discuss a very distressing situation with me. But thankfully of course, my mother would not have realised what was happening.