

Ballroom

1:32 (2 minutes)	Patient Story Turner
1:35 - 2:35	Speaker Michael Goldberg

Turner Prewitt | turner@gmnameplate.com (welcomes communication)

Good morning. Thank you for your role in improving patient safety in our state.

I am Turner Prewitt, a heart transplant survivor and thriver for the last 10+ years.

I have had 6 more surgeries since my transplant due to the side effects of high dose immunosuppressants for a disease called sarcoidosis that severely damaged my heart.

My 2nd back surgery was a microdiscectomy with torn dura. Being a heart transplant recipient, before any surgery I must have a cardiology and anesthesiology consult for clearance.

The day before my surgery was the meeting with anesthesiology and they wrote on my chart the pain medication that I needed.

Post surgery as I was in my room, my anesthesia was wearing off at about 11 pm. I very quickly was experiencing rising pain. I was told that I could not move my position in bed due to the drain in my back. I hit the nurse call button as my pain was becoming unbearable. When I finally got an answer from the Nurses station, I was told it was shift change and it would be awhile. At 11:05 I buzzed , and again at 11:10 with no answer.

I was getting desperate as the pain increased and became all encompassing to me, enveloping my whole being! I was enduring what was an eternity for me. Finally 20 minutes later my nurse came . We spoke and she gave me a pain shot and left. That helped for about 10 minutes and again my pain was back with a vengeance and rising to the 11 level. I buzzed again and waiting for what seemed like forever. When she returned I asked what pain med was in my IV. It was the WRONG pain med for me.

The nurse had to track down a doctor to get an order for the correct pain medication.

So I endured agony for 45 minutes while waiting.

If I could have moved to reach the telephone, I would have called 911 for help as I was beyond desperate.

What if they had followed the instructions in my chart?

What if they had responded to my calls for help on a timely basis?

What if this was you or one of your loved ones – would you want this same care and experience?