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Submitter Information

125

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General Comment

I have had I-131 twice for Papillary Thyroid Cancer. The first time I was hospitalized and the second I was sent home. For me going home was a million times better than being locked alone in a hospital room for a few days. While I understand that it is difficult for some to isolate in a home with other people, I strongly believe that people who can isolate easily should be allowed to go home. Education would be the key to being allowed to go home.

My experience in the hospital was very unpleasant. I had nausea and vomiting yet the hospital kept delivering food to my room. They would knock, tell me to get away from the door, then shove the food in. Even when I asked them to stop they did not. They were not allowed to remove the trays from the room once they entered the room. Thus I was sick and having to deal with the smell of cooked food. Not to mention that the food was stacking up in the room. This may have been a hospital specific issue (rather than a common issue) but it was not fun and I would not repeat the experience for anything.

However, being allowed to go home, I was able to avoid the smells which would have made my nausea worse. Also, I was able to deal, mentally, with being isolated much better because I was in a familiar and comfortable setting.

If you decided that I-131 patients are required to be hospitalized or otherwise formally isolated please require that the facility provide adequate care. The facilities should focus on the mental and physical wellbeing of the patient. Which includes a full bathroom (in other words a SHOWER which I also did not have), access to food which will help the patient if they are having nausea and opportunity to change clothes regularly.

Thank you, KH

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