

In late March this year, my 87 year old mother was admitted to hospital. She was ambulatory and fully cognitive. After being told she had about 2 weeks to live, Mum decided she did not want to continue her prescribed medication, and did not want her life prolonged in any way, but wanted to be kept comfortable and pain free.

Within a few days Mum was confined to bed and only able to eat jelly and have small drinks of water

Mum was moved to a rehabilitation facility as we were unable to get her in to a palliative care facility due to no vacancies. We stayed by mum's bedside for the last days of her life.

The doctor in rehabilitation assured us mum would be kept comfortable. As time went by, mum's condition deteriorated and she was unable to drink or eat. During this time, her tongue swelled and her mouth became dry and covered in a white substance, even though the nurses practiced "mouth care". Mum was becoming agitated and asking for "water", and she was reaching out with her arms flailing in the air. By Thursday my mother was very agitated and trying to get out of bed. We eventually became forceful and had to demand she be kept comfortable and when we asked for something to keep her comfortable, I was told by the doctor, "we don't practice euthanasia here", my response was that I wasn't asking for that, I just wanted my mother to be kept comfortable during her last days. Finally morphine and "demaz" were ordered for her, but it was not given on a regular basis. Mum continued moaning, reaching out and trying to get out of bed.

On Saturday morning we arrived at 7.30am, Mum's lips were dry, her tongue was swollen and she was reaching out and leaning forward in the bed. When I asked for more morphine I was told she didn't need it yet. She passed away at 11.50am that day.

My mother's last days were spent in an agitated state. I believe my mother deserved the right to die with dignity instead of lying there groaning and in a distressed state. Mum had suffered from a lung disease and there was not about to "get better" I don't believe, and my mother didn't want, to live in discomfort for the last 2 or 3 days of her life. My mother deserved the courtesy of being allowed to choose to die with dignity.

I am willing to appear at a public hearing.