



NUTRITION AND HYDRATION WEEK/PATIENT SAFETY WEEK

It is scandalous and very inhumane to "kill" many old patients in our hospitals today :

4 patients DIE thirsty or starving every day!

1316 deaths in 2010 were linked to or directly caused by dehydration (not drinking water) and malnutrition (not eating food), as reported by the Office of National Statistics (Daily Mail 23 January 2012).

"Katherine Murphy, chief executive of the Patients Association, said: 'These figures are a terrible indictment of our precious National Health Service.

'They represent avoidable deaths. These people needed our care when they were at their most vulnerable.'

Michelle Mitchell, charity director at Age UK, said: 'There must be systematic monitoring of malnutrition in older patients. From the hospital ward to the hospital board, everyone needs to take responsibility and help stop this scandal.'

Reports by the Care Quality Commission, the Health Service Ombudsman and the Patients Association have all highlighted poor care. In October, a review by the CQC watchdog found that **half of 100 hospitals visited by its inspectors were not doing enough to ensure elderly patients had enough to eat or drink.**

In Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, Worcestershire, doctors had resorted to **prescribing patients with drinking water to ensure nurses did not forget?"**

The Daily Mail has long been campaigning for DIGNITY FOR THE ELDERLY CAMPAIGN.

It is a human right and a patient right for every patient in hospital ward to be given regularly :food and drinking water and to make sure he/she have had the normal daily NUTRITION AND HYDRATION.

It is shocking too to allow Doctors/nurses in some cases, to stop giving some patients:food/nutrition and fluid/water ,so they DIE from starvation and dehydration,according to the cruel inhumane Mental Capacity Act 2005?

Food and water are basic human rights and needs for every human being, whether he/she is sick or healthy.

They can not be considered as medicine so one doctor can decide to stop it?

Our old patients in hospitals are suffering also a lot of neglect by many nurses regarding :

-hygiene and cleanliness (foeces and urine)

-Bed sores/DVT due to lack of movements and by not changing their positions in bed.

-and making sure they do take their medicine regularly .

Many are left also without any one talking to them!

All these gross neglect,no doubt, will contribute more to the early death of many of them.

The whole system of looking after our innocent weak vulnerable old people in hospitals needs to be fully reviewed and to be scrutinised and well reinforced by strict measures rules and regulations based on genuine care ,as it is scandalous cruel and inhumane in many ways today!

Not to forget also the huge and wide suffering and neglect of a large number of old people who are living on their own in their own accomodations:Many are suffering from hypothermia due to lack of heating in winter,depression and loneliness,falls and injuries,poor nutrition, lack of medicine ,mugging and even death!

Families and relatives need to be more vigilant more watchful and more caring and loving in order to protect the lives of their old loved ones and in order to preserve their own dignity!

Many old people can be looked after at home and not necessarily to be in hospital ,by the different members of the family if they are willing.

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