



Patient Stories

This section provides details about stories of patients who were mistreated, harmed, injured or died at Sunrise Hospital.

NOTE TO READERS: If you are viewing this website on a cell phone, it will only display the first 95 Patient Stories in the dropdown menu. You have to click on the links below to go to each story after number 95, or view this website on a desktop or laptop computer in order to see the full list in the dropdown menu.

The media, news agencies and journalists rarely publish articles about patients being harmed at Sunrise Hospital (unless someone died or filed a lawsuit), but you can learn more about patient experiences by searching social media.

The story of [Patient-1](#) is about a woman who had a horrible hip replacement surgery by Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The surgeon, anesthesiologist and operating room team did NOT use a nerve block even though each of them had discussed it with the patient prior to the procedure. Can you imagine having joint replacement surgery without a nerve block? The pain would be unbearable. It was pure torture. The patient is still suffering with horrible pain, lack of mobility and lack of medical care. Dr. Bradford disappeared after surgery and refused to communicate with the patient or other medical providers.

- Read the story of [Patient-1](#) to learn more about the problems in the medical and health insurance systems in Las Vegas and to learn about the person who "pretended to be an anesthesiologist" during the surgery (overdosing the patient on Fentanyl, using too much Narcan to try to reverse the overdose, and causing the patient to die). The details about what happened during surgery are in the medical records at Sunrise Hospital.
- How often does Sunrise Hospital and Dr. Michael Bradford use unqualified people in the operating room during surgeries? How many people have been harmed or killed?

The story about [Patient-2](#) is about a baby who suffered catastrophic brain injury at Sunrise Hospital. Experts in the case said it was not only negligence but "a conscious disregard" for the baby's health and safety.

The story about **Patient-3** is about a young mother who was discharged from Sunrise Hospital in an unsafe condition, and she was found dead in a parking lot two days later.

The story about **Patient-4** is about a young man who went to Sunrise Hospital with severe back pain. He was not evaluated by a doctor, and no lab tests or imaging studies were done. He was sent out the door with a prescription for Oxycodone.

The story about **Patient-5** is about a woman's mother who died after having surgery at Sunrise Hospital. The woman said it was the worst surgeon ever, and the hospital staff did not help after her mother died. She has been traumatized by the extremely poor medical care and the death of mother caused by Sunrise Hospital.

The story about **Patient-6** is about a woman who left Sunrise Hospital, without treatment, after waiting 48 hours for a surgery that never happened and being given very little attention or medical care.

The story of **Patient-7** is about a man who was left in a vegetative state after surgery for a rotator cuff injury due to a defective anesthesia machine. The machine should have been saved as evidence, but Sunrise Hospital sold it to a third party before the case went to court.

The story about **Patient-8** is about a woman who was left paralyzed after an unsuccessful spinal cord surgery. The two doctors worked together to blame the anesthesiologist in order to protect each other.

The story about **Patient-9** is about a man who went to Sunrise Hospital for gallbladder surgery. A couple days later, they implanted a feeding tube (which was placed incorrectly). A surgeon at a different hospital found that the doctor who did the surgery at Sunrise Hospital had gone completely through the colon and into the stomach.

The story about **Patient-10** is about an infant who suffered serious brain injury due to untreated anemia. Doctors withheld critical information and provided false and misleading information in the discharge summary. A jury awarded \$14.5 million to the family.

The story about **Patient-11** is about a woman who was admitted to Sunrise Hospital in acute renal failure. After receiving a graft in her arm, it became painful and swollen and turned blue. She was discharged in that condition, which lead to amputation of her hand.

The story about **Patient-12** is about a woman who had gallbladder surgery and, shortly afterwards, had a second surgery to remove an abdominal mass. The hospital claimed they were not liable because the surgeon was NOT an employee. The Nevada Supreme Court disagreed with the hospital.

The story of **Patient-13** was a newborn baby who was injured in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Sunrise Hospital, leading to cardiac arrest and permanent developmental damage. Sunrise Hospital attorneys resisted efforts to depose Chief Medical Officer, Jeffrey Murawsky. They are dragging out the process and trial is now set for 2026 (8 years after the injury occurred).

The story about **Patient-14** involves a family where Sunrise Hospital refused to provide a sign language interpreter. The DOJ found that Sunrise Hospital violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ordered the hospital to pay a settlement to the family, provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters to patients when required. Sunrise Hospital must also train employees on ADA requirements, submit periodic reports showing compliance, and modify their policies and practices to be consistent with ADA rules and regulations. This settlement was announced on September 26, 2025.

The story about **Patient-15** is another patient who had hip replacement surgery by Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center, resulting in long-term pain and suffering for the patient. Long delays, no pain meds, phone calls not returned. Patient had to go back to the hospital to get the staples removed. One year later and still in pain.

The story about **Patient-16** involves another hip replacement by Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center that resulted in long-term pain and suffering for the patient, the patient's hip has dislocated 6 times since surgery, Dr. Bradford will not return phone calls or provide medical care to the patient.

The story about **Patient-17** involves a patient with pain in his spine. He saw Dr. Michael Bradford (with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center). Dr. Bradford did NOT tell a patient that his MRI showed possible metastatic disease (bone cancer). Instead, Dr. Bradford only sent the patient to a doctor for pain management. The patient died. The family filed a lawsuit for medical malpractice and wrongful death.

The story about **Patient-18** involves a newborn baby boy named Truth who died at Sunrise Children's Hospital. The hospital will not tell the family what happened. The family thinks it might be due to Sunrise Hospital giving the infant the wrong antibiotic, but the hospital administration is hiding and will not take accountability.

The story about **Patient-19** involves a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital in agonizing pain. They gave her medication and sent her home. Another hospital found that she needed to have surgery.

The story about **Patient-20** involves a male patient who had hip replacement surgery by Dr. Michael Bradford (with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center) in 2024. Dr. Michael Bradford used a defective, recalled device on a hip replacement patient, causing horrible pain and suffering. Patient found a new surgeon and had to undergo revision surgery to have the defective device removed.

The story of **Patient-21** involves a young man named Miles who was misdiagnosed and his care was mismanaged at Sunrise Hospital. The hospital tried multiple times to discharge him in unsafe condition, including when he was on life support. Ultimately, the family only found the truth because they paid for a private autopsy. Miles died of an aggressive form of colon cancer that had spread to every organ in his abdomen.

The story of **Patient-22** is a man who died after experiencing bad medical care and the typical chaos, confusion and lack of attention at Sunrise Hospital. He was left lying in his own urine, with no food or water for 12-16 hours.

The story of **Patient-23** involves a 5-year-old boy who came to Sunrise Hospital with an allergic reaction to peanuts. Sunrise tried to take the boy. The boy's father called his military command for help. Eventually, Sunrise apologized and allowed the parents to take the boy home. Read the whole story to learn how Sunrise Hospital will try to take away your parental rights.

The story about **Patient-24** is a man who had a seizure and was rushed to Sunrise Hospital. After no medical care for 28 hours, they finally checked his glucose level. It was 457. His daughter took him out of Sunrise Hospital and found proper medical care for him at Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center at Nellis Air Force Base.

The story about **Patient-25** is a man who went to Dr. Reynold Rimoldi at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for medical care for a work-related injury. Dr. Rimoldi was unprofessional and arrogant and ignored the patient's pain and made it very obvious who he is bought and paid by (the patient's employer).

The story about **Patient-26** is a patient who went to Dr. Reynold Rimoldi at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Dr. Rimoldi was condescending and dismissive and told the patient to jump off the Hoover Dam if the pain became too much.

The story of **Patient-27** is a patient who went to Dr. Reynold Rimoldi at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for treatment for 2 herniated discs. Dr. Rimoldi was rude and condescending when the patient said she did not want surgery. She says Dr. Rimoldi should not be seeing patients and advises patients to "run to the nearest exit if you are ever referred to him."

The story about **Patient-28** is a patient who went to Dr. Reynold Rimoldi at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for treatment for medical issues relating to his spine. Dr. Rimoldi was rude and would not let the patient ask any questions, and he walked out of the room. Patient advises others to find a better doctor.

The story about **Patient-29** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital. He was put in a room in a chair for days with up to 20 patients and only one bathroom and no shower. The room was referred to as the refugee camp. He left Sunrise Hospital and flew home to get medical care.

The story about **Patient-30** is a military veteran who went to Sunrise Hospital. Received very little medical care and the communication was nonexistent. The patient says the system at Sunrise Hospital is broken.

The story about **Patient 31** is a patient who went to Dr. Bradley Baker at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center with severe leg pain and received no medical care, lack of communication and intentionally incompetent appointment scheduling.

The story about **Patient-32** is a patient who went to Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. She received very little medical care, so she asked to go to a different orthopedic office. Nevada Orthopedic (once again) refused to approve the referral to a doctor on the overflow list.

The story about **Patient-33** is a patient who went to Dr. Holman Chan at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. He did surgery and caused permanent damage to her leg. He broke her femur during surgery and lied about what he did.

The story of **Patient-34** is a patient who went to Dr. Michael Bradford at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. He did not provide medical care, and his staff (once again) demonstrated intentionally inept scheduling, causing long delays and unreturned phone calls. The patient went to UMC Orthopedic and received good medical care.

The story about **Patient-35** is a patient who was in Sunrise Hospital for 8 days. She was abused (and she reported it) and was injured when the staff ripped out a tube and IVs, and she did not receive proper medical care. They tried to prevent her from leaving.

The story about **Patient-36** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital in an ambulance with severe back pain. The hospital put him in a wheelchair in the waiting room. He received no medical care and none of his prescriptions for 8 days. He left the hospital with the same pain.

The story about **Patient-37** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital for open heart surgery. She was given increasingly high doses of fentanyl, and the doctor removed the chest tube even though the patient was bleeding. The patient died.

The story about **Patient-38** is a child who had brain surgery at Sunrise Hospital. She received minimal care, and her parents were prevented from being with her. She was left alone and scared. She was forced to walk out of the hospital on her own, without a wheelchair and with no prescriptions.

The story about **Patient-39** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital. Had 3 fingers chopped off, blood was septic and had gangrene in his leg. He was left unattended laying in his own fecal matter. He was sent out of the hospital with his wounds wrapped in dirty rags and no discharge instructions.

The story about **Patient-40** is a patient Patient who was transported to Sunrise Hospital for a procedure. They told the patient they would not do the procedure and tried to force him to leave. The patient stood up to the bullying and pressure tactics. Protect yourself. Just say NO if you are being mistreated or harassed at Sunrise Hospital.

The story of **Patient-41** is a patient was in Sunrise Hospital for 3 weeks. No diagnosis, no answers, poor communication. Nurses take hours to respond to calls for help. Bathrooms are out of order, and same elevators used by everyone. (If you let the incompetent employees stay, they will damage the performance of the entire team and affect your revenue and profits.)

The story about **Patient-42** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital with difficulty breathing and swallowing. Sunrise charged her \$500 but provided no diagnosis. Staff was rude and disrespectful. The patient later went to an ENT doctor who found she had staph infection.

The story about **Patient-43** is a patient who was in Sunrise Hospital for more than two weeks while she suffered without a diagnosis and very poor medical care. She was not bathed and was left in bed

on the same dirty sheets. She was eventually taken to their horrible rehab facility (Spanish Hills Wellness Suites) where the bad treatment continued.

The story about **Patient-44** is an elderly man who had a stroke and was transported by ambulance to Sunrise Hospital. He was severely neglected by the hospital, and his family was mistreated by the staff.

The story of **Patient-45** is a woman who had surgery by Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Her leg is painful and swollen, and she now has to use a wheelchair. Dr. Bradford will not help the patient or take accountability, and his partners (the good ol' boy network) are protecting him.

The story about **Patient-46** is a patient who witnessed unsanitary conditions, nurses behaving badly, over sedation and multiple bodies being removed. Nurses are unsupervised and left in charge.

The story about **Patient-47** is an infant with a head injury. His parents took him to Sunrise Children's Hospital. They had to wait several hours to get medical care and stitches. This was not a staffing problem. It was incompetent management.

The story about **Patient-48** is a female patient who was burned when the staff used an industrial sanitation wipe (meant for equipment cleaning) to clean her body. Sunrise Hospital denied it and covered it up, and the hospital discharged the patient just one hour after they injured her.

The story about **Patient-49** is a male patient who was in a bad car accident. Sunrise Hospital gave him very little medical care and no pain medication and left him naked and exposed for several hours.

The story about **Patient-50** is another patient who was harmed during a hip replacement surgery by Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. He has been in pain for more than a year, and Dr. Bradford does nothing to help.

The story about **Patient-51** is a patient who was in Sunrise Hospital for 2 days. He received no medical care and no treatment for his injuries. He left Sunrise Hospital and went to a different hospital where he received excellent medical care. Do NOT let ambulance drivers force you to go to Sunrise Hospital, and leave if you are not receiving medical care or are being mistreated.

The story about **Patient-52** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital for surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm. The hospital cancelled and delayed her surgery 4 times. When her family made arrangements to move her to a different hospital, Sunrise Hospital delayed the transfer, and the patient died alone before she could be taken to a better, safer hospital.

The story about **Patient-53** is a patient who received inadequate medical care, an incorrect placement of the IV so he was not receiving any pain medication, and rude, dismissive behavior from the nurses. The doctor said he was "fit to return to work" even though he could not walk. He is telling others they should insist on going to a better hospital.

The story about **Patient-54** is a patient who was kept in the Emergency Room for 3 days with a facial fracture. No food or water, no medical care, and the nurses would not take her to the bathroom despite her repeated calls for help. The family had the patient discharged.

The story of **Patient-55** is a young man who was misdiagnosed and shamefully mistreated at three hospitals in Las Vegas, with Sunrise Hospital being the worst. The patient needed surgery, but Sunrise Hospital kicked him out of his room and put him back in the ER waiting area. The family says they will NEVER recommend Sunrise Hospital to anyone and neither should you.

The story about **Patient-56** is a father and daughter who were in Sunrise Hospital on two different dates in 2025. Same lack of medical care. Only seen by nurses, no doctors. No compassion and no medical advice given. Both patients signed an AMA form and left.

The story about **Patient-57** is another patient harmed by Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Had shoulder replacement surgery. Patient needs help but cannot get a follow-up appointment. No response from Dr. Bradford or his office. This is a very common complaint about Dr. Michael Bradford and Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center.

The story of **Patient-58** is a patient where the doctor said the patient had brain stem cancer and that she would die in 2 weeks -- which was FALSE. There was no diagnosis of cancer in the patient's chart. Was it incompetence or insurance fraud or something more sinister?

The story about **Patient-59** is another patient who received very little communication from doctors at Sunrise Hospital. Patient was not properly cleaned and was frequently left alone during treatments, including physical therapy. Personal property and cell phone were stolen by an employee. Horrific experience.

The story of **Patient-60** is a patient who spent 3 days at Sunrise Hospital. His procedure was canceled and rescheduled multiple times, but the procedure never happened. Staff was disorganized and inept and provided very little communication. After 3 days and still no procedure, the patient chose to leave the hospital. Dreadful experience on many fronts.

The story about **Patient-61** is a patient who was treated for "alleged" pneumonia at Sunrise Hospital. Days later, the family learned from a home healthcare nurse who reviewed the medical records that the patient had actually suffered a heart attack and had a blood infection. Sunrise Hospital never told the patient's family.

The story of **Patient-62** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital with broken ribs and was told he had a brain tumor. He received very poor care at Sunrise Hospital. The staff was not a team and seemed like they did not even care about the patients and would not respond to phone calls or requests from the family.

The story about **Patient-63** is a man who went to Sunrise Hospital with chest pains. He waited for several hours and did not see a doctor so he pulled out his own IVs and left. The patient said "If you feel like dying, go to Sunrise because they don't give a crap about nobody."

The story about **Patient-64** is an elderly patient who was left in the hallway for 12 hours with no food or water. Hospital is dirty with unclean floors and bathrooms. After the family complained on social media, the patient was placed in a small, cubicle space with a curtain.

The story about **Patient-65** is a woman with a broken elbow. She went to Dr. Holman Chan with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for surgery. He moved the patient's ulnar nerve. She was suffering and in severe pain. Dr. Chan told her it was normal and did nothing to help her.

The story of **Patient-66** is a woman who had an unsuccessful surgery at Sunrise Hospital, leaving her with no voice box and an infection, and she was unable to speak. And a nurse ripped out her ventilation tube, making it difficult to breathe. The staff would not help the patient with even basic medical needs.

The story about **Patient-67** is a patient who had surgery with Dr. Kevin Laroche at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The patient's arm ended up worse than it was before the surgery. Dr. Laroche would only say "I don't know" and "I have no idea what happened."

The story about **Patient-68** is a patient who met with Dr. Arthur Taylor at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The patient saw the doctor 4 times, but the doctor could not tell him what was wrong. The patient had to go out of state to get proper medical care.

The story about **Patient-69** is a man and his family who experienced insurance-based and personal bias discrimination (due to being uninsured), lack of coordination among the medical team, and overall poor medical care. The system at Sunrise Hospital is deeply flawed.

The story about **Patient-70** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital, describing the care as awful and unprofessional. Zero communication from the staff about his condition or treatment. His personal items disappeared and no one bothered to look for them.

The story of **Patient-71** is a patient who received poor medical care at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The office delayed submitting an order for an MRI until it was too late. The patient tried to reach the office numerous times and could not get a response until she mentioned filing a complaint.

The story about **Patient-72** is another patient with a hip replacement by Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. It has dislocated 4 times. Dr. Bradford refuses to help and refuses to return calls.

The story about **Patient-73** is a patient who had a terrible experience at Sunrise Hospital. Poor communication and delays without food or water. Delayed his test for another day so they could charge for an extra day. Staff was unprofessional. The doctor gave no diagnosis but said there was no cure.

The story of **Patient-74** is a patient who had a bad experience with Dr. Reynold Rimoldi at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The patient said Dr. Rimoldi was rude and arrogant. You are not a person. Just a number. If he doesn't see a surgery he can do, he will dismiss you.

The story about **Patient-75** is a patient who had hip replacement by Dr. Ronald Hillock with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Patient has a pin sticking out of from his hip replacement, just 2 centimeters from the artery. Dr. Hillock doesn't care. Patient would give them minus-10 stars.

The story about **Patient-76** is a patient who was at Sunrise Hospital for 27 days for two major surgeries. She only saw the surgeon on the day of surgery. Staff was rude and left her waiting for long periods of time. Patient was not bathed for the entire stay (nearly 30 days).

The story about **Patient-77** is a patient who experienced long delays, no food, and lack of medical care at Sunrise Hospital. When she asked to sign an AMA so she could leave, the staff finally started to take action. The patient signed the AMA and left.

The story of **Patient-78** is a veteran who was in a car accident. He was left in the Sunrise Hospital lobby in pain. No vitals were taken. Patient was treated badly and was bleeding and peeing on himself due to the long wait.

The story about **Patient-79** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital and was never seen by a doctor. Violation of the patient rights to "know my providers and receive informed oversight." Lack of physician involvement felt negligent and eroded the patient's trust in the hospital.

The story about **Patient-80** is a patient who died in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Sunrise Hospital. The patient's family believes he was murdered in the ICU.

The story about **Patient-81** is a patient who noticed multiple HIPAA violations at Sunrise Hospital and was also exposed to radiation when they took an X-ray of another patient in the same room. Emergency Department is filthy and patient wonders how they are accredited by the Joint Commission.

The story of **Patient-82** is a patient who was brought to Sunrise Hospital in an ambulance, with a bowel obstruction. They put her in the waiting area for several hours. When she told them she wanted to leave, they put her in a bed "in a hallway among dozens of other people." She eventually left Sunrise Hospital and went to a better hospital in Las Vegas.

The story about **Patient-83** is a man who was in a room with another patient who soiled his bed and the shower. The shower was never cleaned and had dirty towels and feces. The patient's IV was improperly placed and blew up his arm like a balloon.

The story about **Patient-84** is a man who had a painful and horrifying experience at Sunrise Hospital. Lack of compassion and necessary tests were not done. Competency was questionable, especially among the Urology doctors.

The story about **Patient-85** is a man who had a bad experience with Dr. Kevin Laroche at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Absolute worst customer service. Doctor asked the patient what to do and gave no advice.

The story about **Patient-86** is a patient who had a minor boat mishap and went to Urgent Care. She was then airlifted to Sunrise Hospital for a small flesh wound. They put her through surgery and kept her in the hospital for 4 days.

The story about **Patient-87** is a patient who was taken to Sunrise Hospital. She had a broken arm. They would not treat it and only put her arm in a sling and sent her home. She would not recommend Sunrise Hospital.

The story of **Patient-88** is another patient who had a bad hip replacement surgery by Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The device was too long and is very painful. The patient can barely walk, and Dr. Bradford will not help.

The story about **Patient-89** is a patient who was forced to stay at Sunrise Hospital for several days because they said they did not have a cardiologist available. The patient said the room was filthy and the hospital looked like a madhouse. He had to demand to be released.

The story about **Patient-90** is a patient who was in Sunrise Hospital with very little medical care. Lack of communication and no answers from the doctors. Nurses were rude. He was there for 11 days and received nothing but a bad experience.

The story of **Patient-91** is a patient who received several incorrect diagnoses at Sunrise Hospital. They claimed she had several different health conditions that were not true. Now she is wondering about her previous encounters (and possible misinformation) with Sunrise Hospital.

The story about **Patient-92** is a patient who saw Dr. Arthur Taylor at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The patient says Dr. Taylor was rude, arrogant, disrespectful and completely unprofessional. He would not listen to the patient's concerns about whether he was physically able to return to work.

The story of **Patient-93** is a patient who saw Dr. Kevin Laroche at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Absolutely worst experience. Dr. Laroche would not send the referral to a different surgeon. Patient recommends you go elsewhere for orthopedic needs.

The story about **Patient-94** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital. He received no treatment except for an IV. Never saw a doctor. Patient was told to wait 8 hours to see a doctor, so the patient chose to leave the hospital.

The story about **Patient-95** is a patient who saw Dr. Kevin Sharif at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. He was told that they "don't need business" and new patients have to wait to be vetted to see if they are "worth his while."

The story about **Patient-96** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital and noticed multiple HIPAA violations. He was left on a gurney for 10 hours (after being in a shared room with multiple patients). He was never seen by a doctor and received no medical care, so he signed an AMA form and left the hospital.

The story about [Patient-97](#) is a patient who went to Dr. Michael Bradford with Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The patient had suffered a fall. He did not properly treat the patient or order required tests. She developed deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and died from a pulmonary embolism.

The story about [Patient-98](#) is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital and was given a huge bill. The care was so bad she ripped out her IV and left the hospital. Patient says going to Sunrise Hospital is like playing Russian Roulette with 7 bullets. Go the story for [Patient-98](#) to watch the video by Dr. Barrett showing how to remove your own IV.

The story of [Patient-99](#) is about a family who took their child to Sunrise Children's Hospital. They paid the bill in full at the time of the visit. Then Sunrise Hospital would not give them an accurate itemized statement. Just a constant runaround and no valid response.

The story about [Patient-100](#) is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital. They gave her multiple doses of morphine even though she had a well-documented allergy to morphine. A lawsuit was filed on 12/26/2025, describing "patient dumping," "breaches of the nursing standard of care," and "outrageous and reckless failure" by Sunrise Hospital.

The story about [Patient-101](#) is a patient who had a broken femur and a bone sticking out the right side of her knee. She saw Dr. Holman Chan at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center who said he didn't understand why she came to see him. Dr. Chan did nothing to help. Patient says DO NOT go to this hellish place (Nevada Orthopedic).

The story of [Patient-102](#) is a 17-year-old boy who went to Sunrise Hospital. They looked at him in the waiting area, diagnosed him with the flu and told him to take over-the-counter medicine. After receiving no medical care at Sunrise Hospital, they flew back home to Ohio where the hometown hospital found the boy was in serious condition with sepsis.

The story of [Patient-103](#) is a patient who went to Dr. Ronald Hillock at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Dr. Hillock would not look at his swollen hip and right leg. Patient says Dr. Hillock treated him like a piece of garbage. Patient went to the Emergency Room where they discovered a huge blood clot. Patient had surgery and spent 10 days in the Intensive Care Unit.

The story of [Patient-104](#) is a patient who had a botched bariatric surgery with Dr. Barrett at Sunrise Hospital causing severe pain, leaking gut, liver abscess, infections and multiple hospital stays. Patient says Sunrise Hospital surgeons ABSOLUTELY REFUSED to fulfill their duty to DO NO HARM.

The story about [Patient-105](#) is a patient who was at Sunrise Hospital. He was not given a room or a bed and was in an area with 20 other patients in recliners. Not receiving regular medications. Food is ice cold.

The story of [Patient-106](#) is a patient who had an unsuccessful surgery with Dr. Kevin Golshani at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. The surgery was rushed, and Dr. Golshani appeared frustrated with the outcome. Patient has been left with pain and significant scar tissue. Patient wishes he had never had this surgery or would have been allowed time to get a second opinion.

The story about **Patient-107** is a patient who saw Dr. Chinedu Nwasike at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for severe back pain. Dr. Nwasike showed no compassion. Only gave the patient a pill and told him to go home and wait 10 days for the MRI.

The story of **Patient-108** is a patient who had a stroke and went to Sunrise Hospital. She received very poor medical care and had to go to ICU. Her husband stayed with her every minute because of the poor care she was receiving. Sunrise Hospital sent the patient home without supplies for the feeding tube, so she went the entire weekend without food or water.

The story about **Patient-109** is a patient who saw Dr. Ronald Hillock at Nevada Orthopedic for knee pain. Bad experience. Dr. Hillock told the female patient her problem was due to being "middle aged" even though the patient was only 30 years old. Horrible bedside manner.

The story of **Patient-110** is about a patient who was transported by helicopter from Pahrump to Sunrise Hospital with broken ribs. Nurses were rude and not helpful. Never saw a doctor. They did not change her bandages and did not give her a prescription for pain meds when she was discharged.

The story about **Patient-111** is a patient who went to Dr. Ronald Hillock for leg lengthening surgery. The surgery was a disaster, with numerous complications and a failed attempt to repair the damage. Dr. Hillock responded with aggression, claiming the failed outcome was normal.

The story of **Patient-112** is about a patient who had a stroke and went to Sunrise Hospital. Nurses violated confidentiality regarding personal legal documents. They gave the documents to other family members and refused to give the documents back to the original family member.

The story about **Patient-113** who went to Nevada Orthopedic to see Dr. Edward Ashman. Bad experience. Dr. Ashman was rude and late and walked out because the patient was answering emails on her phone when he walked into the room (being productive while she was kept waiting). They billed the patient for procedures that were not done.

The story of **Patient-114** is about a veteran who went to Sunrise Hospital in extreme pain. They gave him nothing for the pain. Told him he would be admitted and left him in a hallway for 12 hours. Then he was discharged. No medical care and no food provided.

The story about **Patient-115** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital. Patient says the hospital is an absolute nightmare, the level of disorganization is unbelievable, and they try to hold patients hostage. This is not healthcare. It is a business preying on people.

The story about **Patient-116** is about a man who saw Dr. Edward Ashman at Nevada Orthopedic. Received "blind" injections in his neck and shoulders (without using an ultrasound for guidance). Caused permanent nerve damage. No mention of this injury in his medical records.

The story of **Patient-117** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital in severe pain. Staff was unprofessional, and the patient noticed excessive gossiping and multiple HIPAA violations. The doctor did not even know which patient he was seeing and provided no answers. The patient was only given morphine and sent out the door.

The story about **Patient-118** is a male patient who went to Sunrise Hospital with back pain. Doctor said he was fine and sent him home. Later he went to Urgent Care and learned he had pneumonia. Sunrise Hospital knew the patient has lupus. Pneumonia is a leading cause of death in people with lupus.

The story of **Patient-119** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital. She said Sunrise Hospital completely fails at communication. They don't explain anything to patients or caretakers. Zero communication. Zero accountability. Stay away.

The story about **Patient-120** is a man who was put in a room with 12 other patients at Sunrise Hospital. No privacy. No peace. Denied a bed for countless days and falsely promised a room. Horrible experience.

The story of **Patient-121** is about a man who saw Dr. Ronald Hillock at Nevada Orthopedic. Scheduling problems and the voicemail box is full so you cannot leave a message. Dr. Hillock was cold and rushed. Felt like he had zero time to listen to the patient. An assistant gave the patient a misplaced injection.

The story about **Patient-122** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital. He describes being pushed through hallways lined with patients and equipment and said it was like being in a game of Mario Kart. Poor medical care and employees were bad-mouthing the facility. Patient says there is a leadership and morale problem.

The story of **Patient-123** is about a man who was (visiting Las Vegas on vacation) and was taken by ambulance to Sunrise Hospital. He waited for several hours and never received medical care. The staff left him in a wheelchair in the waiting area and did not tell the family. They had to fly home in order to get medical care. His hometown hospital found that he had sepsis.

The story about **Patient-124** is a patient who was placed in the Sunrise Hospital "Fast Track" room which is an extension of the Emergency Department. It has 20 patients in one room, less than 6 inches apart. One restroom for everyone. Nurses are told not to provide services to patients in order to discharge them quicker.

The story of **Patient-125** is another patient who had hip replacement surgery by Dr. Michael Bradford at Sunrise Hospital in November 2025. The patient acquired a serious infection during surgery, and Dr. Bradford is saying the patient needs another surgery. Dr. Bradford says it is only a skin infection, so why does the patient need another surgery? Is there something else going on?

The story about **Patient-126** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital after having a seizure. Received poor medical care, was mistreated by the staff, and left in a hallway overnight. She was told they did not find anything even though the patient was showing symptoms. They threatened to put her in the inpatient mental health facility if she did not sign the discharge paperwork.

The story of **Patient-127** is about a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital due to a possible stroke. The doctor refused to see him and did not do proper testing. They left the patient in a hallway for 2 days. The patient signed an AMA form, and his daughter took him to a better hospital. The second

hospital confirmed the patient had a bad stroke and said Sunrise Hospital could have given him medication to reverse the damage, but it was too late.

The story about **Patient-128** who went to Dr. Ronald Hillock at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center to have a Baker's cyst removed. The surgical site became infected. The patient made four trips to the Emergency Room, and they said Dr. Hillock needs to go in and clean up the infection. The patient could not walk, had to miss work, and had to cancel his honeymoon, due to the lack of care and laziness of Dr. Hillock.

The story of **Patient-129** who was found by his wife on the ground outside Sunrise Hospital where the ambulance left him, unable to move. He tried to record it on his phone, but security took his phone and deleted the video. His wife took him to UMC in serious condition. Patient almost died.

The story about **Patient-130** who was in Las Vegas on vacation. She experienced severe abdominal pain and went to Sunrise Hospital. They only gave her medication for pain and nausea. Her family drove her back to Los Angeles where Kaiser Permanente Hospital found the patient's appendix had ruptured. She had emergency surgery.

The story of **Patient-131** who was taken to Sunrise Hospital near death -- he was blue and unable to breathe or move -- but the staff insisted that he stay in the waiting room. He collapsed and the staff told him to get off the ground or they would kick him out. His family took him to a better hospital. Shame on Sunrise Hospital!!

The story about **Patient-132** is a patient who died less than one week after being at Sunrise Hospital. The staff was rude and showed no compassion. When the family called to ask how she was doing, the nurse only said, "the usual, yelling and screaming all night."

The story of **Patient-133** is about a woman who went to Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center with a broken wrist in a splint. She was supposed to receive a cast, but the staff manhandled her and gave up because they could not get the job done. Very painful. No pain medication or other medical care was provided.

The story about **Patient-134** is about a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital with kidney stones. Received horrible treatment from rude and unhinged staff. Patient was ready to beg for death. The hospital told her family they could not find her. She left and went to a better hospital.

The story of **Patient-135** is a patient who had a stroke and went to Sunrise Hospital. Hallways were overcrowded, and people were dying. ER doctor never came back to administer medication within the deadline for treatment for a stroke. The patient was in the ER hallway for one full day and then put in a makeshift, overflow area. Family took the patient out of Sunrise Hospital and flew home so he could get proper medical care.

The story about **Patient-136** is a patient who was taken to Sunrise Hospital on New Year's Day. They discovered she had blood clots in her left leg and her lungs. She was admitted but there were no beds, so she was left in a hallway -- lined up with other patients, like cattle. She was mistreated and ridiculed by the staff because she did not have health insurance.

The story of **Patient-137** is about a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital with a broken hip. He died and left the hospital as ashes in an urn. He was not given the correct amount of anesthesia. His family says Sunrise Hospital killed him due to improper care and pure negligence.

The story about **Patient-138** who went to Dr. Ronald Hillock at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for her hip. Awful experience. He did not listen and did not explain anything. There was no information on the paperwork. Patient says find another doctor.

The story of **Patient-139** who went to Sunrise Hospital and was admitted. Poor medical care, and the staff would not clean the patient or change the linens. The family sought help from the supervisor, the charge nurse, the patient advocate, and the CEO's assistant. No help.

The story about **Patient-140** is a patient who went to Sunrise Hospital. Dr. David Asfour overdosed the patient with tranquilizer. Patient could no longer eat, swallow or speak.

The story of **Patient-141** is a patient who is warning people not to go to Sunrise Hospital if you have a heart attack. Patient says choose any other hospital or just die a quick death, because Sunrise Hospital will leave you waiting in the Emergency Room with no medical care for more than 13 hours.

The story about **Patient-142** is a patient who went to Dr. Edward Ashman at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Dr. Ashman's employee used the wrong medication and injected it blind into the wrong location in the patient's shoulder. Caused severe pain. Patient unable to use her arm.

The story of **Patient-143** is a woman who had an accidental fall and went to Sunrise Hospital by ambulance. They put the neck brace on too tight, and the breathing tube was not even attached to a tank. No response to calls for help. Staff was unprofessional and mocking the patient.

The story about **Patient-144** is about a homeless man who went to Sunrise Hospital. The hospital refused to provide medical care and ejected him from the Emergency Room. The patient died on the hospital's lawn. A medical malpractice lawsuit was filed.

The story of **Patient-145** who was put through multiple, unnecessary surgeries at Sunrise Hospital while they ignored the primary cause of his illness for a month. Hospital refused the family's requests to have the patient transferred to a different hospital. Horrendous treatment.

The story about **Patient-146** is a patient who went to Dr. Ronald Hillock at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for hip replacement. The patient is in extreme pain and never recovered from surgery. He is unable to walk, even with a walker or a cane. Patient says Dr. Hillock is arrogant and incompetent.

The story of **Patient-147** is a patient with breast cancer who went to Sunrise Hospital with shortness of breath. Had fluid drained from her lungs. Received poor medical care and very little attention from the nurses. Took them 3 days to fix the shower. Never gave her a menu. Received very little food, and the food was absolutely disgusting.

The story about **Patient-148** is a patient who went to Dr. Michael Bradford at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center in January 2026 for pain treatment. Dr. Bradford was only in the room for 5 minutes, and the patient received no treatment.

The story of **Patient-149** is a patient with Sickle Cell disease who was transferred to Sunrise Hospital in order to see a hematologist. She was left in the Emergency Room for many hours, never saw a hematologist, and did not receive proper medical evaluation. Patient was disrespected and mocked and felt unsafe.

The story about **Patient-150** is a veteran who went to Sunrise Hospital after a bad fall. Patient was ignored and mistreated. No diagnosis or treatment provided, so the patient signed out and went to the Veterans Hospital in his hometown. He was not given any paperwork. Patient says it was as if he had never been at Sunrise Hospital. The Veterans Hospital found the patient had a concussion and provided proper medical care and treatment.

The story of **Patient-151** who went to Dr. Bradley Baker at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. He performed an unnecessary torn meniscus surgery which destroyed her cartilage. Dr. Baker and his office refused to return calls. Patient went to another surgeon who found the problem. Because of the damage done by Dr. Baker, the patient had to have a total knee replacement surgery. (Learn about common unnecessary surgeries including meniscus repair and joint replacement surgeries.)

The story about **Patient-152** who went to Dr. Edward Ashman at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center to discuss surgery on his knee. Patient says Dr. Ashman was in the room for only one minute, did not discuss the MRI, then said the surgery scheduler would come in to set a date for surgery. Patient went back to his primary care doctor and decided not to allow Dr. Ashman to do surgery because it would leave him with bone on bone.

The story of **Patient -153** who went to Sunrise Hospital in severe pain. Received inadequate care and minimal effort to evaluate her. She was given Naproxen even though she had only one kidney. Patient went to a better hospital and learned she had kidney stones, a bladder infection, twisted nerves in her back and a slipped disc.

The story about **Patient-154** who had a broken wrist and went to Dr. Arthur Taylor at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Dr. Taylor NEVER looked at her wrist but said it was a simple break and would heal in a few weeks. An employee put a cast on her wrist (twice), but it caused severe pain. Patient went to a different hand surgeon. After 3 surgeries to try to repair the damage that Dr. Taylor had ignored, she is now disabled.

The story of **Patient-155** who went to Sunrise Hospital for trauma care. Lack of professionalism, empathy, respect and common sense. The doctors and nurses need to go back to school. Dr. Rodriguez had a huge ego, gave incorrect information, and put a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) Order in the patient's chart without her consent. When the family learned about it, they had it removed from her record.

The story about **Patient-156** who went to Dr. Michael Bradford at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for a knee replacement. On the day of surgery, the patient waited in the pre-op area for several hours,

but Dr. Bradford never showed up. The patient was NOT given an explanation for Dr. Bradford's absence, and Dr. Bradford would not respond to the patient's phone calls.

The story of **Patient-157** who was transported to Sunrise Hospital from a Long-Term Acute Care facility. The patient was in septic shock and was on three vasopressors. Sunrise Hospital refused to give the patient an arterial line which was indicated in this situation. The patient died.

The story about **Patient-158** who went to Dr. Reynold Rimoldi at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center for a second opinion about surgery. Dr. Rimoldi was very condescending and rude. He told the patient, "If you get paralyzed, you're not going to put that on me." Patient commented about fake reviews on Google.

The story of **Patient-159** who went to Sunrise Hospital for surgery. The post-operative care was horrible. The patient (a veteran of the U.S. Navy) was yelled at and berated by the employees. He kept asking to be discharged and ultimately had to insist on signing an AMA form so he could leave. In a twist of fate, his Uber driver was a former nurse at Sunrise Hospital and told him about the numerous NDAs that employees are forced to sign because of all of the lawsuits.

The story about **Patient-160** who was in Sunrise Hospital for a week. Had 3 strokes. Staff was rude and detached. Doctors only came in for 3 seconds, every 2 days. Worst hospital ever. GET IT TOGETHER SUNRISE OR CLOSE THE HOSPITAL.

The story of **Patient-161** who had a severe headache and could not see. She was taken to Sunrise Hospital by ambulance. They left her sitting in the waiting room. They eventually examined her and said she needed brain surgery. After two surgeries, the patient was put on life support. Her family took her to a hospital in California where an MRI showed metal inside her head. The surgeon discovered that Sunrise Hospital had left a piece of scalpel inside her head. The patient died.

The story about **Patient-162** is about a child whose fingers were injured in a door. Sunrise Children's Hospital left him in a room, bleeding, for hours with no towels or supplies. They finally gave him stitches, but the family says the hospital should be shut down.

The story of **Patient-163** was taken to Sunrise Hospital by helicopter. She was left in the hallway while waiting for a room. They took 2 days to do an MRI and 2 more days to get the results. Nurses never checked on her unless she called for them. Patient developed a sore on her back from being in bed for 5 days with very little medical care.

The story about **Patient-164** who went to Sunrise Hospital with a broken tibia (shin bone). They left her waiting for hours in the hallway. The orthopedic surgeon wanted to rush her into surgery without discussing the treatment plan, risks or alternatives. When the patient asked for a second opinion, the doctor refused to treat her or sign the discharge paperwork.

The story of **Patient-165** who had surgery by Dr. Michael S. Bradford at Sunrise Hospital. Very poor communication and very little medical care. There were dangerous complications, so the patient had to seek treatment at a different hospital.

The story about **Patient-166** who went to Sunrise Hospital. Patient said it was the most disgusting, filthy hospital she has ever seen. No cleaning. No privacy. Cannot believe it is allowed to stay open. They need to rethink the system or shut it down.

The story of **Patient-167** is about a toddler who was taken to Sunrise Children's Hospital with a temperature over 105 degrees. They tried to force them to wait in the waiting area. The room had blood and urine on the counter and the bed. Tried to force the child to have unnecessary procedures. They stole the medical images and refused to give them to the parents. Your hospital should be shut down!!

The story about **Patient-168** who had a massive heart attack and was taken to Sunrise Hospital for surgery. He received very little care or attention. The staff showed very little compassion or empathy and made his daughter sleep on an old couch in an unused conference room (instead of allowing her to stay in the room with her dad). He died four days later, and they left his body in the morgue for two weeks. Sunrise Hospital needs to be shut down!!

The story of **Patient-169** who was in Sunrise Hospital for 5 days and had a horrible experience. Patient says it was complete incompetence and numerous lies. No doctors showed up. Patient complained, but nothing was done to improve the medical care. Stay away from Sunrise Hospital!!

The story about **Patient-170** who had a horrible experience with Dr. Edward Ashman at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Dr. Ashman never visited the patient while she was laying in pain in the hospital for 3 days and only saw the patient for 5 seconds before surgery. The patient was in the hospital for 6 days after surgery and never saw Dr. Ashman. Patient says he would NOT send a dog or his worst enemy to Dr. Edward Ashman.

The story of **Patient-171** who went to Sunrise Hospital for labor and delivery. She said it was the most terrible hospital ever. She heard Sunrise Hospital is known as the "death hospital" and now she understands why. Nurses would not respond. Nobody cleaned the baby after birth and told the patient to do it herself when she gets home. Patient lost a lot of blood and had blood clots for a year after the childbirth.

The story about **Patient-172** who went to Sunrise Hospital with a broken leg. The entire experience was extremely unprofessional. Dr. Hubert was very difficult to deal with and would not provide adequate information so the patient could make an informed decision. The patient felt her life was in jeopardy, so she left "against medical advice." She went to a different hospital where she was given proper medical care.

The story of **Patient-173** who went to Sunrise Hospital. Employees were rude and disrespectful. Computer systems are from the 1970s. Patient had to check in 7 times from three different sources and in person. Billed by an anesthesiologist but never received services from him. Patient says they only care about money and provide poor customer service.

The story about **Patient-174** who went to Dr. Arthur Taylor at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Worst experience ever!! Dr. Taylor was impatient, unfriendly and rude and would not help. Patient

experienced the typical appointment and scheduling problems that are mentioned in many of the patient stories regarding Nevada Orthopedic.

The story of [Patient-175](#) who went to Sunrise Hospital. Received very poor medical care, was given several dangerous medications, and was misdiagnosed. Patient was discharged. She wanted to see a specialist. The specialist called 911 immediately, and said the patient should NOT have been discharged from Sunrise Hospital. The patient has now been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and is permanently disabled.

The story about [Patient-176](#) who went to Dr. Reynold Rimoldi at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Patient says Dr. Rimoldi is either blind or intentionally ignored the injuries shown on her scans. She went to a different doctor where she received an accurate diagnosis and will get the surgery that is needed to repair the damage. Patient advises everyone to GET A SECOND OPINION.

The story of [Patient-177](#) who went to Dr. Holman Chan at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Dr. Chan told the patient he had a fractured hip and told her to do whatever she wanted for treatment. Patient went to a different doctor and learned it was actually bursitis (not a hip fracture).

The story about [Patient-178](#) who went to Dr. Arthur Taylor at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Dr. Taylor spent less than one minute with the patient and did not examine her elbow.

The story of [Patient-179](#) who went to Dr. Edward Ashman at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. Dr. Ashman was rude and dismissive, and his behavior was absolutely disgusting. Worst experience ever.

The story about [Patient-180](#) who went to Sunrise Hospital. Worst hospital ever. Incompetence, lies, no medical care, no medical advice. Doctors were rude and arrogant. The patient felt like a prisoner. After 4 days with no care, the patient walked out and says "NEVER GO TO THIS PLACE."

The story of [Patient-181](#) who went to Dr. Michael Bradford at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center. He had hip replacement by Dr. Bradford only two years ago and it failed, so now he needed a hip revision. Surgery was a disaster. He came out of surgery with his mouth busted up and no explanation. He is in worse condition -- cannot sit in chairs, can barely walk and his balance is terrible.

Note to readers:

There are hundreds of patient stories telling about harm, mistreatment, violation of patient rights, and death at Sunrise Hospital. This website presents only some of those stories.

There are also numerous stories, news articles, and legal documents showing that Sunrise Hospital has violated numerous rules, regulations and laws. Those sources are quoted and referenced throughout this website.

Similar to the stories by Patient-1, Patient-24, Patient-89, Patient-160, Patient-162, Patient-166, Patient-167, and Patient-168, it is important to know there are many additional patient stories that say Sunrise Hospital should be shut down.



Lessons Learned from a Botched Hip Replacement Surgery in Wisconsin

My husband's medical team was failing him. Then a stranger stepped in and said 6 words that saved his life.

The following story comes from a news article published on January 26, 2026.

Ten minutes after my husband arrived in his hospital room, the space throbbed with doctors, nurses, therapists and technicians. Warnings beeped on machines. White coats huddled and whispered. And then Joel was rushed back out the door, gurney wheels spinning, propelled by a fleet of scrubs in sprint mode.

My husband, Joel, elected to have a hip replacement. He counted on it to improve his quality of life.

Instead, a nick from the retractor caused a life-threatening bleed that set off a cascade of catastrophes. Within a few hours, he went from a healthy, active, 63-year-old to an unconscious, life-support-dependent ICU patient. Kidney failure followed, plus an obstructed colon and compartment syndrome – all complications of what should have been a routine procedure.

To make matters worse, the doctor who fucked up his hip replacement was in charge of fixing the mistake.

I had trusted too much – the doctors, the hospital, the statistics proclaiming hip replacement common and safe.

Prepared for a one- to three-day hospital stay, with a return to normal in six weeks, Joel instead embarked on a months-long hospitalization with no guaranteed survival. And since he was drugged into incoherence, I made decisions for him. With no medical knowledge and little experience in trauma, surgeries or hospitals, I once again trusted too much.

I had so many questions:

Why was the doctor who botched the hip replacement now in charge of Joel's recovery?

Why did the lead surgeon disregard the colon specialist's recommendation to have Joel evaluated elsewhere?

Why was there a rotating staff instead of one director in charge of intensive care? And why were two of Joel's doctors arguing at the central ICU desk?

That's when a rabbi came to see me.

"You know what they're arguing about, don't you?" she said.

She never asked if we were Jewish (we're not) or if I needed spiritual guidance.

Just minutes before, a nurse had told me one doctor advocated amputating Joel's leg; the other disagreed. The argument continued.

Why only two doctors instead of a larger team? I wondered. Why did they not ask my opinion? Who would make the ultimate decision?

"You can request a different hospital," she told me calmly, as though she had been reading my thoughts. "You could have your husband transferred."

Those six words seemed so obvious.

Twenty minutes to the east was a prominent medical facility affiliated with a medical college and staffed with hundreds of doctors, research teams, and state-of-the-art equipment. But in the fuzz of shock and stress, I hadn't considered this alternative.

For the first time in two weeks, I sensed someone on my side. She had assessed the situation and proposed I abandon the place that employed her. She suggested there was a better place than the one she represented. But more than that, she gave me agency. She assumed I had power even as I felt powerless. She assumed I was fierce even as I felt impotent.

Her suggestion seemed impossible. Doctors, not wives, made decisions.

Would anyone listen to me? I wondered. How would I move a critically ill man who needed minute-by-minute monitoring?

Still, I knew if I didn't act quickly, my husband's leg could be gone. He could even lose his life.

I went home, and I made phone calls to that regional hospital. I discovered a team of limb salvage specialists who saved legs instead of amputating them, and I found a doctor to supervise my husband's case.

At 7 a.m. the next day, intimidated and fearful, I approached the authority figures I had been taught to trust – the medical professionals who towered from their self-constructed pedestals. I told them I had initiated a transfer and my husband would be leaving their facility.

All day, I endured delays, waiting for a bed, waiting for approval, waiting for coordination – waiting, waiting, waiting.

At 10 p.m., Joel was transferred in an ambulance to the larger hospital, where he would spend the next 2 1/2 months.

He still required surgeries, feeding tubes and dialysis. But now, he had a team of doctors dedicated to saving both limb and life, with resources beyond those in the local hospital. And he had a wife with a voice.

Would I have found my voice without that rabbi? I'm not convinced I would have. But once I initiated change, I intended to do it again.

Despite that disappointment, I still speak up. Now, before every doctor appointment, I compose a list of questions, complaints and possible treatments. When a doctor pooh-poohs a test, I challenge their opinion. When a nurse minimizes a symptom, I repeat my concern. When a result goes unnoticed, I call attention to it. And my advocacy goes beyond medicine. When I appeared in court on a probate issue, I wrote a script for my lawyer with points to make to the judge.

Although drugs, surgeries, therapies and hard work saved and rehabilitated my husband, it was a complete stranger who precipitated his move to the proper facility – and very well may have saved his life.

Though life often seems impersonal, with virtual meetings instead of face-to-face interactions, texts instead of phone calls and blood tests instead of bedside manner, she made me feel connected to and cared for.

At a time when the universe had robbed me – of my husband's health and companionship, of security, contentment and peace of mind – she offered me a gift. Expecting nothing in return, she stood by my side and held me up. She gave me confidence and hope. Her compassion

healed and transformed as much as any test or treatment and left me looking for ways to pay her kindness forward.

Source: HuffPost article titled "My Husband's Medical Team Was Failing Him. Then A Stranger Stepped In And Said 6 Words That Saved His Life" published on January 26, 2026 (originally published in

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