

Patient's Angst Following Failure to Get Theatre Slot



A patient recently spent nine days at University Hospital Waterford (UHW), four of which were spent waiting for a theatre slot which fails to materialise.

A patient waiting to undergo a serious operation has expressed her dissatisfaction at being sent home from University Hospital Waterford (UHW) after failing to get a slot in a theatre.

The married mother of two from Waterford, who suffers from Crohn's Disease (and who wished to remain anonymous in this interview), had spent nine days in hospital, four of which were spent waiting for a theatre slot.

Speaking to The Munster Express, she recounted her stay in hospital and her disappointment at being unable to obtain a slot.

"I attended the Care Doc on April 29th after becoming very sick and underwent several tests," she said.

"I was admitted to the hospital on May 7th on the advice of my GP and, after undergoing blood tests, they decided to keep me in.

"Due to family commitments I needed to return home but I confirmed that I would return the following day," she explained.

After undergoing a colonoscopy, it was discovered that the patient's bowel was blocked.

"As the surgeon couldn't see enough, he said he believed part of my bowel needed to be removed," said the concerned patient who did not wish to be named.

"I fasted and was kept on a drip as I waited for a slot in theatre to undergo the procedure. Despite going in as an emergency I had to wait nine days in the hospital, after being told I would get a slot today, a slot tomorrow.

“Eventually I was sent home on Friday, May 15th. I was given a prescription for vitamin drinks and was told to continue to fast.”

On the day she was sent home, Minister for Health Dr James Reilly was in UHW as he officiated at the renaming ceremony and officially opened the Emergency Department, Neonatal Unit and CT Unit.

The patient’s mother approached Minister Reilly as he toured the hospital and outlined her daughter’s situation.

“We were given assurances by those representing the hospital that my case would be dealt with as soon as possible. Minister Reilly took this matter very seriously but still today I am awaiting a slot in theatre,” she explained.

Despite still being upset over the situation and still very unwell, she still praised the care that she received in the hospital from the doctors and nurses but believes the delay in obtaining a slot in theatre is unacceptable.

The Munster Express was unable to obtain a comment from the Health Service Executive before we went to press.