



Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics

A Journal of Qualitative Research

Call for Stories

Ethical Challenges in Discharge Planning: Stories from Patients

Symposium Editor Elizabeth Pendo, JD

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics will publish a collection of personal stories from patients who have navigated challenges in creating transition plans for discharge from acute or post-acute care hospitals. Discharge plans are meant to ensure a safe transition home or to another care facility. Patient goals, values, preferences, financial resources, abilities, support systems, and other resources available in the community should be considered. While many discharge decisions go smoothly, conflicts can arise. If not resolved, conflicts can harm patient health and well-being. Harms can include withdrawal, loss of trust, or being kept in institutional settings they do not want or need.

We seek first-person stories from people who, as patients, are currently or have negotiated challenges in discharge planning about their experience. We want true, personal stories in a form that is interesting and easy to read. Please share this invitation and guide sheet. In writing your story, consider these questions:

- What surprised you about the experience of developing a plan to leave the hospital? Were there things you did not anticipate?
- How has the experience affected you physically, emotionally, or economically?
- What conversations did you have with your doctor, nurse, or discharge team about the plan for discharge? Did they have the information needed to create an appropriate plan? Did you feel your wishes and perspectives were taken into appropriate consideration?
- Did a doctor, nurse, or member of the discharge team raise concerns in the planning process? Did you raise concerns? What were they? Were those concerns addressed?
- Were you comfortable with the discharge plan offered? If not, what were the barriers to your preferred plan?
- What would you like to tell doctors, nurses, and others involved in discharge planning?
- What would you like people who develop policies and laws to know about discharge planning?

You do not need to address each of these questions—write about the issues that you think are most important to share. If you are not a writer, tell your story in your own words and our editorial staff will help you.

If you are interested in submitting a story, we ask you first to submit a 300-word proposal—a short description of the story you want to tell. Inquiries or proposals should be sent to the editorial office via email: narrativebioethics@gmail.com. If your story is invited, we will ask you to submit it within 6 weeks of the invitation. Final stories are 4 – 10 double-spaced pages or 800 – 2000 words.

For more information about the journal *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*, the guidelines for authors, and privacy policies, visit our webpage at: <http://nibjournal.org/submit/guidelines/>

We plan to publish 12 stories on this topic in our print edition; additional stories may be published as online-only supplemental material. We also publish 3 – 4 commentary articles that discuss the stories that are published in the journal. To see a finished symposium, please visit *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics'* page on [Project MUSE](#) and click on the unlocked, open-access issue.