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Alzheimer`s Disease

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Answers by Expert:

- ▶ [Mary Gordon](#)
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- ▶ [Michalene Peticca](#)
- ▶ [Cindy Keith, RN, BS, Certified Dementia Practitioner](#)
- ▶ [Alanna Shaikh](#)

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Expert: [Cindy Keith, RN, BS, Certified Dementia Practitioner](#) - 5/22/2012

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Question

mom is in a nursing home recently following hip surgery, she is 94, now slips in and out of reality, sleeps most of the day, cannot feed herself or any other activities, does not really know us, has a living will stating no oxygen therapy, no meds, no force feeding tubes, can the nursing home keep giving her meds, etc if living will states no. ? this is not the way mom would want to live, what can i do, should i approach the nursing home with the living will and ask that they discontinue giving her meds and oxygen (nasal canula)

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Cindy Keith, RN, BS, Certified Dementia Practitioner

Expertise

As a nurse and dementia consultant, I can answer most questions on all types of dementia. If I cannot answer your question, I will attempt to find someone who can. My passion is to help caregivers of people with dementia, which in turn helps all those wonderful elders with dementia live better lives. When caregivers are better educated, they are able to better care for themselves and their loved ones, so education is key to decreased stress levels and healthier, happier families.

Experience

I have worked as a nurse in various disciplines of nursing for over 20 years, most of which was with the elderly. I was a health care coordinator in a dementia dedicated assisted living facility for 4 years before I started my

Answer

Hello Regina: I'm sorry to hear about your mom's recent decline. I'm not the best person to be asking this question of since I'm not an eldercare attorney, but I wanted to give you my perspective as well as urge you to speak to an eldercare attorney in your state if you don't get satisfactory answers from her doctor.

My guess is that if you were to speak to her doctor, show him the living will, and ask how he and the nursing home might honor those wishes, you will get some answers. If she is placed on hospice, then they would withdraw many meds, but would be sure she is dying comfortably, and that could mean giving her oxygen depending on why she needs it, since it wouldn't be comfortable to die gasping for breath. They would give only meds required for comfort and pain control, so this may be a good option for you--speak to her doctor about it. I wish you and your family the best in this terribly stressful situation Regina. Cindy

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own business (M.I.N.D. in Memory Care) as a dementia consultant six years ago. As a dementia consultant, I help families nationwide through phone conference calls as they struggle to care for their loved ones with dementia.

Organizations

Alzheimer's Foundation of America
Geriatric Interest Network
Sigma Theta Tau International

Publications

Published "Love, Laughter, & Mayhem - Caregiver Survival Manual For Living With A Person With Dementia" which is a collection of stories about people with dementia I have known, loved and worked with. Every story has a lesson to teach and this book gently teaches family caregivers lessons about how to better care for their loved one, as well as themselves during their caregiving journey. Published "Love, Laughter, & Mayhem In Eldercare Facilities: The Master Key For Dementia Training" Created "Bringing Nurturing To Memory Care" staff dementia training video Created Ebook: "Hair Stylist's Helpful Tips For Working With People With Alzheimer's & Other Dementias"

Education/Credentials

Registered Nurse with Bachelor's degree in Nursing; Certified Dementia Practitioner; Author of 2 books and an ebook

Awards and Honors

Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society of Nursing

- [Bipolar and Homeless - Reader Stories: What Led to Your Bipolar Diagnosis?](#)
- [Assisted Living and Alzheimer's - Alzheimer's and Assisted Living](#)
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