

Cardiac Surgery at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital, CON# 25-033

To all concerned parties,

On September 14th I was suffering from chest pains and I went to the Emergency Room at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital in Lake Forest, Illinois. The Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital is most convenient geographically and is the closest Hospital facility as I reside in Vernon Hills, Illinois. After preliminary examination and testing coupled with my past history I was placed in the Cardiac Care Unit. An angiogram test procedure revealed four (4) blocked arteries.

The attending cardiologist counseled me to undergo a Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting surgery immediately. We were advised that Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital does not have the facilities for cardiac surgery so this meant that I would have to be transferred to Northwestern Memorial Hospital located in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. It was further explained that there would be potential difficulties and challenges in scheduling this heart bypass surgery and it was dependent on numerous factors such as: ambulance transport arrangements from Lake Forest to Chicago; an open hospital room; coordinating with the surgical team; operating room availability; etc. I was unable to meet with the surgeon in person and was introduced to a colleague via a digital interview.

I was transferred from Lake Forest to Chicago late on September 17th Wednesday evening. My surgery was scheduled and performed on Friday, September 19th. I received excellent care from ALL of the Doctors, Nurses and associated medical personnel at both the Lake Forest and Chicago Northwestern Memorial Hospitals.

My only negative experience was the angst and hardship associated with the fact that I could not remain for the cardiac surgery in Lake Forest. My wife is 74 years of age and is extremely uncomfortable with commuting into the City of Chicago especially with commute times often exceeding one (1) hour. Parking at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago is expensive and not convenient. We looked into a hotel room but found that nightly room rates in the area were extraordinarily costly. This situation placed an enormous amount of stress on myself and my family knowing the inconvenience that this commute and physical geographic barrier would impose.

With the above circumstances in mind we would hope that in the immediate future that Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital would have the facilities and capabilities to conduct all cardiac surgical procedures.

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Thank you to all parties for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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