

Dear transplant nurse,

My name is Janet Dennis, I am a heart recipient. I was transplanted on July 6, 2005 at the University of PA Hospital.

I just wanted to let you know that I value your role through the entire transplant process. I was told that a virus attacked my heart and put me in heart failure. It was the first hospital stay of my life, being told in ER that I had to be admitted was a shocker. I just wanted to cry. I mean, hospitals are for very sick people. I turned out to be one of those very sick people. I was in and out of the hospital numerous times, before my transplant. Especially, when I got my Defibrillator.

The level of care that I received from my numerous nurses was exceptional. It was different, not that I had anything to compare it to. I was able to talk to them, and relay my fears. I was just hoping that non-transplant patients received the same level of care.

It was kind of funny, when I got a different night nurse. They would read my summary before coming into my room. They were like "Oh, my God! are you okay?" I know that they had read that I had a storm with the defibrillator; it fired 12 times one night.

One, night I could not stop crying. I was thinking about my surgery. I knew that I did not want to wear an oxygen mask. I could not breathe with an oxygen mask – I was more comfortable with having the oxygen through my nose. I was afraid that I would wake up after surgery, my arms in restraints and I will have an oxygen mask on and could not breathe. My nurse assured me that I will not have an oxygen mask at all. She told me that I would have a breathing tube. Then she gave me some peppermint tea to calm me down. I just felt so brave after that. I had no other worries about my surgery.

After my surgery, I had to lie on my back. I hate lying on my back. I told my nurse that I really do not like sleeping on my back. She hooked me up. She got two additional pillows and prop them behind my back and I was able to sleep on my side. It was amazing, and it was so comfortable.

I just want to thank you, for your spirit to serve others. Especially others who are not their true selves, because of their illness. Thank you for your calm spirit and patience. Thanks for loving your job, even when you have days that you cannot believe you have chosen this profession. Believe me you are a perfect fit.

Janet Dennis