

Dear transplant Nurse:

I am writing you this letter to Thank you for all of the work that you do. At 4:15 PM May the 5 Th. of 2005 I received a call from Stanford Medical Center. where I was on the waiting list to have a lung transplant as I heard on the other line the DR said you have been waiting for this call for some time now. I didn't understand at first, then it hit me when he said we have your lungs. I was told to go to the hospital and to be admitted. when I got there the nurse told me to change in the a gown then the DR came in to talk to me. I went into surgery at 1:45 am on May the 6 Th. my surgery was 9 1/2 hours. I have such a special place in my heart for Nurses because it was my nurse who woke me up as I was in the recovery room. all I remember is that she told me Sweet Heart wake up, then she said you have a good set of lungs... I looked at her and I took a deep breath..... which I was unable to do for almost 5 years? Then I feel asleep. I didn't wake up for 2 days and it was Mother's day the morning i woke up.

When I did fully wake up guess who was there. Yes, my ICU nurse, I was so blessed to have such caring people and encouraging people. They were there to help me, 2 days after my transplant my right lung collapsed and I was put on a respirator fully awake. My nurses couldn't believe that I was such a good patient they told me that many time when a patient was put on a respirator they would have to tie that person down or give them medication because they would try to pull out the respirator out of there mouth. I was on the respirator for 9 days and everyday when they would come in to see me, I would give them my thumbs up and they would laugh even my doctors couldn't believe it. My nurses would come in and talk to me and say that my attitude was so good and encourage me. They would always say Gloria you are going to make it ... they would say how proud they were of me. On May the 17 Th. I was taken off the respirator and the next day was my 49 Th. birthday one of my nurses ask my doctor if they could order me a cake for my birthday because she said I was such a great patient and the doctor said yes. On my birthday all the nurses came in to sing happy birthday to me. It was the first time I wasn't with my family on my birthday. My husband and children were 7 hr. away because I lived in the Los Angeles area, and I had my surgery in Northern Calif. but I felt so loved by the Nursing staff and my doctors. After 17 day in ICU I was moved to a private room. And my nurses were so good to me there. I remember this male nurse who I took a picture of him because when I was able to take my own shower he would come in and get my shower ready for me. I had lost 15 lb. in ICU because I wasn't eating. He put towels down on the shower seat because I had lost so much weight that my butt bones would hurt so he mad a pad with towels. I will always remember that. It was an experience I will never forget for the rest of my life. I want to say Thank you to all of the Nurses. I know you don't always get to hear how much you are appreciated. Well, I am here to tell you, you are so loved and appreciated for all of your hard work. Keep up the awesome work. Your labor is not in vain.

One grateful patient.
Lots of Love and Prayers

Gloria Rodriguez