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Center Hospitalier Intercommunal de Haute-Comté
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April 26, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for authorization to visit on an exceptional basis

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am the husband and caregiver of Marie Hélène Furlan who is hospitalized in your Neurology department (Medicine C), room 407, since Thursday April 23.

She was transferred from the CHRU of Besançon where she was in pulmonary and cardiac resuscitation (artificial coma) for 5 weeks. From the start, she has been tested negative for COVID-19.

I understand that hospital visits have been suspended due to the Coronavirus but that exceptional visit authorizations can be granted by the director of the establishment, this is why I inform you of my request for authorization to visit my wife exceptionally.

At the CHRU of Besançon, I was allowed to help my wife every day but the use of public transport was complicated and the service of a taxi too expensive, which is why, I asked that my wife be transferred to Pontarlier hospital located 3 minutes walk from my apartment.

Following a telephone interview with my wife last Friday, I consider that she is the victim of a psychological decompensation. She forgot that she has lived in Pontarlier for the past 5 years, in fact she does not know where the city of Pontarlier is located. She thinks that we live in Atwater, an American city (California) where we lived for 7 years (2001-2008). She asks me to come to see her at the hospital and to assist her to go home. She thinks I am abandoning her. I try to comfort her but it is difficult over the phone.

In the past, in times of crisis, I was always on her side and assisting her as a caregiver. Today, she is temporarily (I hope) quadriplegic, it is the first time in her life that she is in this state, she definitely needs my services as a caregiver. Nurses cannot always be on her side constantly. My wife is a difficult and demanding patient. It risks driving health workers crazy. The consequences can be very serious, she is at risk being abused physically and / or with medication. This bad experience has already happened to her in the past, that is why, it is very important that I am at her side in order to assist her and bring her psychological comfort. I will help her to recover her memory and strengthen her morale to fight to relearn to walk. As my wife is bipolar, I must watch that she remains stable and does not become manic and / or suicidal. I also plan to help her use the phone, TV, and the Facebook social network where hundreds of American friends are waiting for this news.

You are offering my wife very good service to keep her alive medically. I am the only one able to help her on the psychological level because at her stage, it is not drugs which will help her on the psychological level.

Pending your response, please accept, Madam, Sir, the expression of my respectful consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Rabergeau', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Philippe Rabergeau