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Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

RE: ASSAULT ON PATIENT BY CCO SEEN AS SUCCESS STORY

Dear Ms. Wynn

On May 22nd you were in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at Health Sciences North in Sudbury where I work. At that very moment I was going over emails from my patient and her friend. She represents the archetypical example of why Professor Rodney Hicks from Australia said to me:

- ***“Ontario has the most egregious and politically motivated agenda against PET in the world.”***

Dr. Hicks was not, of course, referring to the ‘PET machines’, but to Ontario’s patients. This unfortunate woman represents but one of thousands of tragic Ontario stories based on Cancer Care Ontario’s FAITH BASED and agenda driven process directed against patients in your futile effort to reduce health care costs.

ONE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT’S “SUCCESS STORIES”:

My patient who had just retired from nursing, was unfortunately diagnosed with cervical cancer. To her family, friends and physicians she is an heroic woman who is dying from her cancer.

To you and your government she is just another ‘blotch of red ink on your ‘spreadsheets’. You do not deserve to know her name since this ‘victim of Cancer Care Ontario’s assault against her” ***will be viewed as a ‘high-fives success story’. Another patient successfully prevented from having a critical PET scan.***

Had she of had a PET/CT as her initial investigation it would have shown that she already had Stage IV untreatable cancer. She would have been able to come to terms with this terrible situation with some dignity and the best ‘quality of life’ she could hope for under the circumstances.

But because she has the misfortune of living in your **PATIENTS FIRST**, “**just doing what is best for our cancer patients” health care system** she will now die suffering from, among other things, the side effects from mutilating radiation therapy. Her oncologist was forced to practice ‘incompetent medicine’ by the direct actions of Cancer Care Ontario medical experts.

She was given the false hope of a possible cure based on her compulsory CT and MR studies and only allowed to have a PET/CT **AFTER** having suffered through the emotional and physical trauma of her radiation therapy. She also endured terrible pain and complications from radiation damage to her rectum and her bladder.

- ***She will continue to live with these complications along with everything else she must face which would never have occurred if she’d of had the PET/CT appropriately.***

Even if a curative treatment was possible, the PET/CT showed that ‘normal sized’ lymph nodes on her CT and MR exams contained active cancer. They were not included in the radiation fields, and the one chance she would have had for a cure would have been fatally missed.

But worse, the PET/CT correctly demonstrated that she already had Stage IV, incurable cancer and ***her radiation therapy would have been contraindicated.***

- ***This can only be seen AND WILL BE SEEN as a direct and mutilating assault on her body portrayed as ‘best practice evidence-based medicine’ as manufactured by your Cancer Care Ontario experts.***

This ‘blotch of red ink’ will be offered ‘palliative therapy’ to try and prolong her life. The patient and her physician understand that one the reasons that PET/CT is the ‘cornerstone of imaging management in the era of Personalized Medicine’ is because it could determine after as little as one or two cycles of these poisons, whether the therapy had a chance of success or not.

- She could then make an ‘informed decision’ to either continue the therapy, or if it was not effective, and no other options were available, ***she could confidently stop the useless therapy:***
 - ***AND THEN GO FOR WHATEVER “QUALITY OF LIFE’ was possible in her remaining time with her family in friends.***

But of course she has the misfortune of living in your PATIENTS

FIRST, EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE Liberal Ontario.

SUMMARY:

This remarkable but unfortunate ‘woman’ will eventually come to terms with the outcome of her disease. But the levels of stress she and her family are undergoing have been elevated into overdrive with no possible resolution because of the actions of your medical experts. This woman spent her whole working life in health care. How does she now try and fathom:

- ***That this was knowingly and deliberately done to her by government medical experts using a Faith Based, agenda driven process called ‘health technology assessment’.***
- ***How does she even begin to deal with the ‘surreal fact’ that both you, Ms Wynne, and Dr. Hoskins are very proud of the those who have done this to her ON YOUR BEHALF?***
 - ***Even worse, that her ‘nightmare’ will be ‘celebrated as yet another success story by those whose job is to make sure another PET/CT was successfully blocked?’***

The most senior member of the PET Steering Committee, Dr Al Driedger, resigned from the PET Steering Committee in 2009 in disgust. Among other public statements he stated:

- ***“That what was being done to block PET in Ontario bordered on immoral.”***

This does not even begin to truly capture what you Ms. Wynne, Dr. Hoskins and your ‘experts’ have done to this woman, and thousands just like her.

The time is coming for Ontario residents to fully understand the kind of people who govern them and your ‘dedicated experts’ carrying out this egregious assault on some of our sickest and most distressed patients.