

It always makes me happy when a patient takes the time to thank me for the care I gave them. That is why I want to let you know how much I appreciate all you have done for me. Honestly, I have been writing and revising this letter for months in the hope I would get it just right, forgetting nothing. I was not going to give this to you until my reconstruction was done but I was rudely reminded last week of how fragile life is. I did not want to miss the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

For 19 years I have been in EMS and/or worked as a nurse's aid. I never thought that I would be the one who would need treatment. Initially, I gave your office a bad time. I kept telling that I treat patients and did not want to be the patient myself. I was even asked if I wanted to do my own surgery after I told you that I had studied a virtual mastectomy and reconstruction video before our initial visit.

I cannot imagine how difficult reconstruction could have been if I would have chosen a surgeon who was impersonal and treated me like I was just a number. Whether you know it or not, you helped me convince myself that everything would be ok during the scariest time of my life. You treated me like I was normal when many of my family and friends were uncomfortable around me. When I was panicked on several occasions you patiently answered my phone calls and calmed me down. (I am sure there may have been times when you wished I did not have your number). It made me feel secure knowing I could call you if I got into trouble. I am very thankful that despite the fact that one of my breasts is an implant, for the first time since puberty I do not feel like a misfit. I am not afraid not to wear turtle necks and clothes that are not oversized. I have learned many things this year. Too many to pen. One big thing I learned was that my perception of medicine had become skewed. (I only treat patients when something has gone amiss). I now know that sometimes things go really good.

I have always strived to give good patient care and have a good bedside manner. I sure appreciate that you and your staff gave me excellent care. I hope I have learned things from you all that will make me a better paramedic. I do not believe I could have received better care.

I do believe that God is in control of my life. I believe He directed me to the right doctors for me. I don't know what tomorrow holds but I am really hoping that if I have a re-occurrence you will let me continue to be your patient.

Thank you again.

PK