

Transcript

Andrew:

Susan's brother Andrew was admitted to Oak ward. He had advanced metastatic cancer as well as dementia, and there was nothing further that the doctors could do to help him, other than offering symptom relief. Morphine was prescribed to help control Andrew's pain, but he was unwilling to take it. Andrew's consultant said that he probably had about a month left to live.

At first, Susan was able to care for him at home and she was quite keen that he should remain there.

However, Andrew stopped eating and it became harder for Susan to care for him as he grew progressively weaker.

Susan described her brother's final admission to hospital...

"He started to bleed and...the blood were too much, and it's scary, and I didn't think I could manage it"

So she called an ambulance and Andrew was taken into hospital for the last time.

After he was admitted to hospital, Andrew continued to bleed and was given a blood transfusion. He was unable to hold the bowl to catch the blood that was coming from his mouth, but there was no nurse present to help him.

"I asked one of the health care assistants for a little pot to clean his mouth, and I haven't seen her yet"

The mess made by the blood was distressing for Andrew, and for Susan, too. Andrew kept asking Susan if she would wipe it away for him.

Andrew's mouth was very dry and stained with blood.

Susan tried again.

"I asked the sister... and I told her. At least, she said she would send somebody to go and get me a pot and I was still waiting, none of them got me the pot."