

Dubai Health Authority finds hospital negligent

Woman in labour was refused admission

- By Bassma Al Jandaly, Senior Reporter
- Published: 00:00 February 9, 2010



Dubai: A hospital was found negligent after forcing a woman to deliver her premature baby on the back seat of a car in front of the hospital door, according to Dubai Health Authority officials.

A report issued by the Licensing and Specifications Department stated that NMC speciality hospital was found medically negligent. The incident happened in April last year when NMC hospital in Dubai rejected the admission of the 26-year-old Filipina because the hospital did not have the necessary facilities, according to her husband.

The hospital denied the authority's accusations. It also said the Health Authority's report lacks details.

The husband said his wife went to NMC Hospital as she was following up on her pregnancy.

Essam said his wife was asked to leave the hospital immediately as she was in labour and the hospital was not equipped to deal with premature babies, born 35 weeks into pregnancy.

Severe pain

Hospital staff carried her on a stretcher to her friend's car and left her there. "I thought they [were] taking me to an ambulance and another hospital as I was in severe pain," she said.

Then the woman's water broke. "Within a few minutes I saw my baby Ameera crying on the back seat of the car," she said. She suffered three episodes of cardiorespiratory arrest.

The baby is also suffering breathing problems.

The woman's husband's friend went back into the hospital seeking help when the woman's water broke.

At this point the woman was taken back to the hospital into the emergency ward as she was bleeding heavily.

According to the hospital report the baby girl was in critical condition suffering from bleeding in the brain. The report notes the baby stopped breathing three times.

Father of baby Ameera is seeking compensation from the hospital for his daughter and his wife.

How do you rate medical facilities in the UAE? What kind of experience have you had with hospitals?

© Gulf News 2010