

Life Changes - Part 2

by Sue L Canfield

Three years ago on April 12, 2006 I was admitted to the hospital for what ended up being a 14-week stay. For three years I was symptom free and never saw a doctor. Then on March 6, 2009 at 3:00 pm I started having intense abdominal pain. By 4 pm I was vomiting and by 10 pm I realized this was no flu. I thought I was having a recurrence of what happened 3 years ago and I was scared. I'd nearly lost my life then and went through the worst experience of my life.

So we went to the emergency room and within an hour I was given medication to ease the pain and was scheduled for a CT scan (cat scan) at 3 am that morning. The scan revealed chronic infection and a twisted small bowel. An NG tube was inserted through my nose into my abdomen to drain fluids and I was not allowed to eat or drink anything for the next 9 days. Sunday afternoon I had surgery - small bowel resection. After getting the pain medication adjusted, I felt much better.

On Saturday, March 14, 2009 the NG tube was removed and I began a restricted liquid diet - Jello, tea, broth. Then they did another test sending a scope down my throat to check out another spot. It ends up just being inflammation. One more test after this reveals a smaller than usual section in the stomach. It just means I can't eat much at one sitting. Again, nothing to worry about.

By March 17th I was on a full liquid diet which meant I could have creamed soup, nutritional liquid supplements, even ice cream. I walked regularly and was feeling better every day. On March 19th the surgeon pulled the drain from the abdomen and said the staples from the incision would come out the next day. I ate a regular meal that night and was it good. Friday morning the staples came out and I was home Friday afternoon, two weeks after being admitted.

I'll go for a follow-up visit in two weeks and get another CT scan in about six months. Everyday I feel better and better. My little girl, Fiona, will be five on the 29th and is ecstatic to have me home and well.

During it all, as scary as it was, my friends, family and even business associates rallied round. Fiona was cared for, meals were provided, business went on.

I'm very thankful all went so well and hope never to be admitted to a hospital again. Thank you all for your support during this very trying time.