Patient and Family Peer Support Network

Helping people find the support they need when something has gone wrong in their medical care.

DIFFICULT FEELINGS ARE COMMON AFTER A MEDICAL INJURY.

Sometimes, during medical treatments, things don't go as planned. This could be because of a medical error, unanticipated outcome or a known complication. Others who have gone through this experience themselves or with a loved one say they have had feelings like:

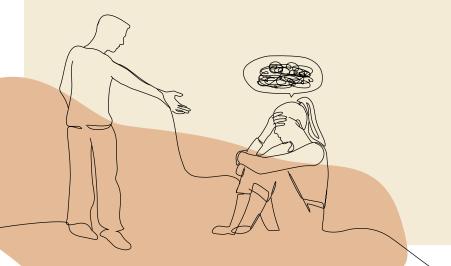
- trouble sleeping or eating
- anger, guilt, frustration
- trouble thinking or concentrating
- images or thoughts of the event that occur in unexpected moments
- depressed mood, irritability, loss of interest or pleasure

- drug or alcohol abuse
- feelings of inadequacy and loneliness
- loss of trust
- feelings that health care professionals don't care about you
- a desire to connect with others experiencing similar trauma

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. WE CAN HELP.

The Patient and Family Peer Support Network is a free, Massachusetts-based resource that connects patients and families with volunteers — or peers — who are trained to help with the difficult feelings that people sometimes experience following a medical treatment or procedure that did not go as planned.

Call 617-701-8271 or email Peer.Support@BetsyLehmanCenterMA.gov to contact a trained member of the Betsy Lehman Center staff. Next, you will be connected with a peer supporter who has had a similar experience. You and the peer supporter can together decide how much and what kind of help you need most.



Visit <u>BetsyLehmanCenterMA.gov/Support</u> to learn more and reach out.



