# Elderly Man's Suicide Triggers Concerns Over Treatment Delays



Elderly Man Takes His Own Life Due to Treatment Delay

Great-grandfather Julian Pryer, 84, took his own life in August 2023 amid severe chronic pain following a knee operation. Mr. Pryer, a retired railway worker from Lingwood, had a knee replacement at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) in January 2022. Despite the procedure being deemed successful, scans later revealed serious complications, including a large muscle tear and spinal issues.

In constant agony, Mr. Pryer made regular appointments with his GP and was referred to the hospital’s pain clinic. Nonetheless, he learned he would have to wait at least eight months for any treatment. Additionally, mental health services declined a referral from his GP, citing that his issues were primarily physical.

Mr. Pryer’s daughter, Cheryl, reported that the persistent pain drastically altered her father's character. His situation drew attention at Norfolk Coroner’s Court, where the coroner concluded the case as a suicide. Mr. Pryer left a note explaining his reasons.

Katherine Dyer, lead nurse of NNUH's pain management team, noted that some patients wait nearly two years for treatment, reflecting a broader national issue of high demand. NNUH's chief executive, Professor Lesley Dwyer, expressed regret over such delays, affirming ongoing efforts to reduce waiting times.

Born in India, Mr. Pryer had an active life prior to the surgery, including frequent overseas travels and regular church attendance in Norwich.