# Healthcare Assistant Sentenced for Defrauding Cancer Patient in London Hospital



### Healthcare Worker Convicted for Defrauding Vulnerable Patient

**London, 2021** - Hazel Longhurst, a 65-year-old grandmother and retired palliative care nurse, was undergoing cancer treatment at St Bartholomew’s Hospital in London when a healthcare assistant used her bank cards for fraudulent purchases. Mira Solmaz, 33, of Mare Street, Hackney, used Longhurst’s bank cards to make transactions totaling around £1,660.

Solmaz has been sentenced at Southwark Crown Court after admitting to multiple offenses, including fraud, possession of articles for use in fraud, and money laundering.

Longhurst, of Rayleigh, Essex, initially dismissed text alerts from Tesco Bank as potential scams. However, further investigation by her daughter Melanie Turner revealed that the cards, believed to be securely stored in a hospital cupboard, were missing. This led to the eventual discovery of the fraudulent activity.

Longhurst spent considerable time from her hospital bed canceling the affected bank cards, enduring additional stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of London Police, praised for their quick response and investigative efforts, corroborated that Longhurst wasn’t the only victim of Solmaz's actions.

Turner contacted the police on April 7, 2021, leading to swift action against Solmaz. The case highlighted the challenges faced by patients reliant on healthcare workers for their wellbeing and safety.