

JOYCE'S PRINCIPLE

Joyce Echaquan was a Atikamekw woman from Quebec. In 2020 she had been admitted to Joliette Hospital at the Centre Hospitalier de Lanaudiere due to stomach pains. Joyce had previously been seen at the hospital and was labelled as a narcotics addict. ***Based on this prejudice, her concerns were not taken seriously.***

Upon hospitalization this label followed her and contributed to her mistreatment until her death. Later during her hearing, evidence showed that she ***only consumed narcotics she was prescribed*** and in amounts that were ***insufficient to cause dependence.***

Before she died in hospital, she and her daughter had live-streamed videos on Facebook in which ***hospital staff were heard making derogatory and racist remarks*** towards her.

LESSONS FOR CARE PROVIDERS:

1. Learn the policies of Joyce's Principle.
2. Denounce and report instances of racism.
3. Prioritize patient preferences and needs.



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