

Disability woman died after 'appalling care'

A woman with learning disabilities died after appalling failings in care by the NHS, according to a patient watchdog (Martin Barrow writes).

Tina Papalabropoulos, 23, died after staff at Basildon Hospital in Essex "missed any opportunity" to save her life, the Health Service Ombudsman said. She was admitted with suspected aspiration pneumonia in January 2009 but had to wait five days to see a respiratory consultant. Staff failed to administer antibiotics immediately and did not consider moving her to a high dependency unit. Tina's parents, who led a long campaign for official recognition of her mistreatment, said that she had been denied adequate care because of her learning disabilities.

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