



### **A Patient's Story**

*I'm writing in response to your cover story on tubing misconnections (November/December 2011). Six years ago, we were blessed with the birth of our second child, Chloe. She was born at thirty weeks and had some very serious medical issues, which warranted a long NICU stay. About a month after she was born, my husband and I were getting some sorely needed groceries when we got a phone call from the neonatologist. She was crying and told us to rush to the hospital as a serious medical error had occurred in our daughter's care. When we got to the hospital, we were advised that Chloe's G-tube line had been mistakenly attached to her intravenous line, causing my fortified breast milk to be delivered to her bloodstream. She was put on life support, suffered DIC, seizures, and has other various medical problems, including documented neurological damage. It was the worst day of our lives. For three days, our world was turned upside down. She miraculously survived. We were so blessed.*

*Our daughter has been through years of therapies, operations, and inpatient stays. You can be assured I tell everyone involved in her care what happened to her. You would not believe the reactions I've heard. Medical professionals ranging from physicians to technicians are in shock that this can even occur. Yet, it is happening in their field and most have never heard of tubing misconnections.*

*Dealing with medical professionals is a daily occurrence for me, and I personally have to work tremendously hard in order to overcome my fears and to regain trust for the medical professionals who care for or who may provide care for my family. I understand that what happened to Chloe was not done purposely and that the medical profession consists of inherently caring people who wish to make a difference in someone's life.*

*I have been affected by what happened to our daughter in several ways. I am extremely overprotective of her and have many fears, especially not knowing what future problems she could have due to this medical error. My heart breaks daily, as I will never know her true potential—the one that God had intended for her. Sadly, it was taken away from her on that day. I don't want what happened to our daughter to happen to anyone: It is totally preventable.*

*I have become a patient advocate and have had many opportunities to share our daughter's story to help prevent this from happening to someone else. I strive to play an active role in ending tubing misconnections. A patient's story can serve as a catalyst to provide a "wake-up call" in the medical industry. I do not want what happened to our baby to fall on deaf ears, and I hope that her story, as well as the stories of many others who have unfortunately experienced a tubing misconnection, will lead to big changes with the governmental agencies, manufacturers, and facilities that can make these changes happen. Thank you BI&T for bring this to the attention of your readers. Chloe thanks you too!*

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