Marnie's Army

To Benefit

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

The Jimmy Fund

Mother & Child Initiative

Bringing an IBC component to the undergraduate curriculum of all nursing schools.

🔷 In March of 2020 (3 months after giving birth), Marnie had a breast infection that was diagnosed as mastitis. Over time, she received 3 regimens of antibiotics without resolution. Sometime after the third treatment, it was suggested she undergo a skin punch biopsy to rule out inflammatory breast cancer. The results came back as Stage IV, metastatic inflammatory breast cancer.

🔷 During the time she was being treated for mastitis, she was seen by(or received consultations from); 1.) Her PCI 2.) Two nurses-a perinatal nurse and a lactation nurse, two different PA's and a breast specialist. None of them were aware of Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) . During the time she was being treated for mastitis, her cancer advanced from Stage III (treatable) to Stage IVmetastatic (treatable, but incurable). These mis-diagnoses happen to thousands of women every year.

🔷 The costs billed by providers to keep Marnie alive for 24 months were a staggering $2,089,509. **These are actual costs** as I have her medical records. *The approximate costs for the same period of time to treat Stage III IBC are $185,000. A difference of $1,904,509.
* These costs are approximate from different sources as it is very difficult to find accurate figures because IBC has never been assigned an ICD code by the ACS and therefore is not tracked like cancers with an ICD code!! believe it or not!!

🔷 The long term goal of the "Mother & Child Initiative" is to: **Bring an IBC component to the undergraduate curriculum of all nursing schools.** According to the numbers above, if just 500 women avoided a Stage IV(metastatic) diagnosis and were treated at the Stage III level, the provider cost savings would be a staggering $952,254,500 . . . not to mention both extending and saving life!! **One way this can be achieved is to make sure that front line health care providers are aware of IBC.** *A "win-win-win" for patients, insurance companies and health care providers.*

***Marnie's Bill*-"An act that supports the Marnie's Army 'Mother & Child Initiative' and the inclusion of inflammatory breast cancer into the curriculum of all undergraduate nursing programs in the Commonwealth and related health care organizations."**