

To Whom it May Concern,

I had PIP Implants implanted on 4/10/2005 by _____ from _____

as I was very insecure with the size of my breasts. The surgery was performed at _____ which went well and was happy with the procedure and my breasts. It wasn't until late February 2012 that I received a letter in the mail from _____ to inform me of the PIP scandal!!!! I wasn't too bothered to start off with as I had no symptoms at all whatsoever to make me think anything was wrong until one of my close friends was diagnosed with breast cancer due to her PIP implants which she has now just had to have a full mastectomy to remove the tumor, breast and lymph nodes. Along with her, myself and 13 other family members and friends all treated by _____ we all had ultrasounds to check on this health issue. All were fine but ME in which I found out that my left breast had ruptured with 4 different sizes of free silicone ranging from 2.7cm to 5cm was floating around inside my breast and my left lymph nodes were enlarged. I notified _____ immediately to have this put on my records there. I paid \$6600 for the surgery and \$660 for the anesthesiologist in 2005 where I borrowed money from the bank to do my procedure. I have now had to have them removed and replaced along with a capsulectomy in both breasts by a new surgeon that has cost me \$4950 for surgery and \$1650 for anesthesiologist which I borrowed money again from the bank. On receiving the news of my rupture (along with nasty infection that the new plastic surgeon advised me of after surgery) I am out of pocket of roughly \$13000 for both surgeries. I was happy to pay for the first surgery as I was depressed and very self-conscious of my appearance and my new breasts made me feel confident until I found out about the PIP's. This put a huge amount of strain and stress on my family, work and financial position. I feel that I shouldn't have to pay for any of the second procedure as this is purely a medical condition and not cosmetic. I have no idea if _____ knew of this disaster when implanting me the first time as he told me at my 6 week post-op checkup that "everything was fine and I would have them for life"????? and wouldn't need to have any checkups, Well he got that wrong!!!! If I didn't go ahead with the ultrasound on the 1st March I would be none the wiser with regards to my outcome. My second operation has made me feel depressed and self-conscious again because my left breast is smaller than my right due to the capsulectomy and tissue/muscle removal due to rupture. It has been 5 weeks since my second operation and I am going back to my new surgeon this Friday to have him look at my smaller breast to hopefully fix without any further cost to me. This whole PIP disaster shouldn't be happening if the TGA did their job properly and thoroughly tested the implants and thoroughly checked the manufacturer/s. People get plastic surgery for various reasons whether it being personal or medical and shouldn't have to worry about the product being DANGEROUS!!!! I still worry about the long-term effects on my health due to my enlarged lymph nodes and free silicon that was inside my body.

I have attached photos for you to look at of my rupture and for you to hopefully understand my anguish with my current situation financially, medically and mentally.

Regards,

Rhonda Bailey