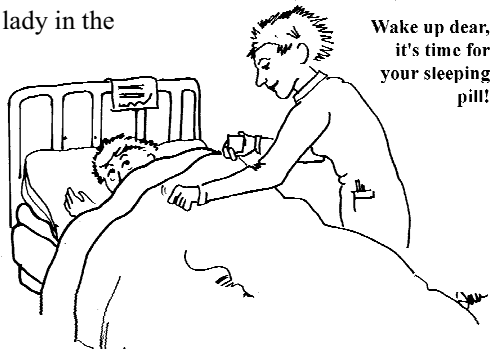


## A Stay in Hospital

### Liz's Laws

1. The meals you have carefully chosen you will never get to eat, as by that time you will have moved to another ward and someone else will get what they didn't want, in their turn choosing what the next person won't want.
2. Just at the very moment you decide you can't stand another minute in hospital you will find yourself wondering how long it is to lunch - you are institutionalised!
3. Your bed will always be directly opposite the Nurses Station where, like it or not you will find you have acquired a ring-side seat with full volume 24 hour access to toe curling tales of tempestuous love life.
4. Just at the point when you have at last dropped off to sleep, someone will wake you with pills to make you sleep.
5. There will always be an old lady in the next bed who will hold a lively all- night conversation with an invisible friend. This will involve phone calls, visits, what Ted said to Mavis (No!), missed hair appointments and a final demand that her false teeth are taken out. This, a Nurse will attempt to do but as they turn out to be her own and firmly attached- with little success.
6. You will be able to tell that a Doctor has visited by the scorch marks in the carpet. Whatever the Registrar tells you the night before he will firmly deny on the next morning's round.
7. There is always a yellow cleaning sign left prominently in the ward for everyone to fall over. There is no cleaning person attached to it.
8. All hospital Consultants will avoid patients wherever possible as interfering with the elegance of their solutions.
9. On the day you leave you will have to wait for your pills to be made up by the pharmacy. It is an immutable law of nature that although you are dressed and ready to go by 10am, pills take at least 4 hours to arrange and will not arrive until after the lunch you didn't order.
10. Going home is BLISS! None of the above apply anymore and you leave in an emotional euphoria of gratitude, relief and eternal promises to keep in touch.



**Liz Clarke-Watson**