

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

QUALITY OUTCOMES EVERY DAY



WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE THE FOLLOWING PATIENT SUCCESS STORY.

Ruben Vasquez

Reason for LTAC Admission: Septic shock

Reason for IRF Admission:

Critical illness myopathy

Discharge location: Home



PAM HEALTH
SPECIALTY AND REHABILITATION
HOSPITAL OF LULING

On March 28, 2022, Ruben Vasquez went to the emergency room because he was experiencing severe abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. His blood oxygen level was incredibly low. His condition rapidly declined and he needed intubation, mechanical ventilation, and a tracheostomy. Mr. Vasquez went into severe acute renal failure and septic shock with multi-organ failure. His prognosis was poor and talks of palliative care had begun, but his family was not ready to give up. Slowly, Mr. Vasquez began making small improvements. On May 1, he no longer needed the ventilator and was on 30% trach collar. At this point, he was stable enough to transfer to PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Luling.

When Mr. Vasquez first arrived, he needed extensive wound care management, IV antibiotics, and was severely weakened from his extended hospital stay. He was nonverbal, and the extent of his cognitive impairment was unclear. However, each day he continued to improve. On May 23, he was decannulated on room air. He began to regain his speech and was communicating with staff and physicians. Despite these dramatic improvements, Mr. Vasquez was still extremely debilitated.

On May 6, he began the next step of his journey at PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Luling, where he started aggressive therapy. His goal was to return home with his wife, where he had lived independently prior to his illness. When he began therapy, he needed help with transfers and dressing and could not walk. Mr. Vasquez made great progress during his 14 days of therapy. By the time he was ready to return home, he could eat with supervision, perform his own oral hygiene with some help, and walk up to 50 feet with supervision. Although he still needs help and supervision with several activities of daily living, he has made incredible strides after spending 85 days of hospitalization. Mr. Vasquez remains determined to continue his progress at home and is an inspiration to us all.

