

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

QUALITY OUTCOMES EVERYDAY

WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE THE FOLLOWING PATIENT SUCCESS STORY.

Mr. Ronald Wilkins

Admitting Diagnosis: Acute Respiratory Failure Secondary to COVID-19

Days to Wean off Ventilator: 9

Discharge Location: IRF

Mr. Ronald Wilkins is an accomplished trombonist who had been living in New York for many years. In early March he came to Austin to play in the orchestra for the production of “Aladdin” at the University of Texas. Almost a month after coming to Austin Mr. Wilkins began to feel ill. He was found by his family unresponsive and was rushed to the emergency room via ambulance. Later tests confirmed he was positive for COVID-19. As his illness progressed he went into respiratory failure and had to be intubated. Days later he underwent surgery for a tracheostomy. He has no recollection of the next 32 days, but has learned through staff and family of how close he was to losing his life to COVID-19.

Slowly Mr. Wilkins began to make small improvements, and by May 7th he was stable enough to transfer to Post Acute Medical at New Braunfels. Upon admission Mr. Wilkins was requiring full assist from the ventilator. He was unable to speak or eat, and required max to total assist with dressing, grooming, and bathing. He was also max assist with bed mobility and unable to transfer or ambulate.

We immediately began aggressive weaning strategies, physical, occupational, and speech therapy. That, along with his strong determination to overcome this virus helped him to succeed and be weaned off the ventilator within 9 days from admission. He is now decannulated, and is no longer requiring supplemental oxygen. He is also able to eat regular textures and drink thin liquids, and is able to hold a conversation with ease. He is independent with bed mobility, and only requiring supervision with transfers and all ADL's. Mr. Wilkins is able to ambulate, supervised, 175' with a rolling walker.

He is excited to be able to move on to the next phase of his recovery and continue with his physical therapy until he is ready to return home with his loving family. Mr. Wilkins promises to return when he is fully recovered to give his new PAM family a private concert, and we can't wait to hear him perform! His kindness, and positivity are an inspiration to so many. Keep moving forward Ron and definitely “*don't stop believing*”!



“Don't stop believing”
Ronald Wilkins

