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My mother suffered a TBI about 6.5 years ago, and ultimately passed away in May of this year. The challenges my family had to face since the TBI with her care and wellbeing have been profound and difficult. She would fall routinely, sometimes resulting in ER trips with repeated head injury, but would nevertheless be discharged home where she did not have the 24/7 care she needed. Ultimately, her cognitive deficiencies resulted in her failure to follow up with critical lung cancer screening and when we were able to find the cancer, she was too frail to treat and died about 3 weeks after diagnosis. She couldn't meet her ADLs and admittedly suffered from confusion and significant short term memory loss, but yet she was articulate about her medical condition to her doctor and therefore there was no way to get her the care she needed. She insisted she knew what she was doing, but the evidence supported the contrary. She ended up in the hospital at the end because she fell, yet again, and suffered seizures. Seizures she experienced because apparently, she stopped taking her seizure medication.

This was an incredibly hard journey for my family, and I would never wish the same for anyone else.