

Linh and the Health Service



Based on interviews with Linh's head teacher and her mother

When Linh's leg was paralysed she was taken to the local medical centre and then to the nearest hospital. Linh was in hospital for 1 month and 13 days. Every day the doctor injected medicine but there was no improvement. The doctor didn't know why the treatment didn't work and Linh was sent home.

Linh's medicine and treatment was free under Vietnam's government medical insurance schemes. Linh's family only had to pay for her food while she was in hospital.

Her family wanted to take Linh to a bigger and better hospital further away for specialist treatment, but they couldn't afford to go. They needed a referral from the hospital where Linh was treated to get free treatment and they weren't given one. They don't know why they weren't given a referral.

If Linh was registered as disabled she would qualify for a wheelchair and some financial support. But her parents don't know how to register her. The local council has been informed of the problem but they have not completed the procedures yet.

Linh's father has poor health and needs to visit the doctor twice a month.