

## IV: Systemic Infection Linked To Nursing Negligence.

The patient's IV was started in his right hand by emergency medical service personnel before they transported him to the hospital.

Five days into his hospital stay a cardiologist implanted a permanent heart pacemaker.

Following the pacemaker implantation procedure the patient developed sepsis which led to shock and multiple organ failures. He had to start dialysis and then had to have a kidney removed. As his condition deteriorated he had to undergo limb amputations. The pacemaker also had to be removed.

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***Hospital policy required any IV line inserted in the field during an emergency to be changed in the hospital at least within 48 hours.***

CIRCUIT COURT, ST. LOUIS COUNTY  
MISSOURI  
July 30, 2008

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The jury in the Circuit Court, St. Louis County, Missouri apportioned fault 67% to the cardiologist and 33% to the hospital's nurses. The total verdict reportedly was \$2,580,000.

### **Nursing Negligence**

The jury accepted testimony that the hospital's nurses neglected to follow the hospital's protocol that any IV catheter inserted outside the hospital had to be removed and a new line started at a different location after no less than 48 hours.

The cardiologist was saddled with most of the blame for what transpired with the patient for going ahead with the pacemaker implantation even though a cursory visual inspection of the IV site would have put him on alert that an infection was in progress. ***Klotz v. St. Anthony's Med. Ctr., 2008 WL 4559899 (Cir. Ct. St. Louis Co., Missouri, July 30, 2008).***