

## **PICC: Nurse Infused Milk Into Newborn’s Blood Stream.**

A newborn in the hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit was supposed to have both a peripherally inserted central venous catheter (PICC) and an orogastric feeding tube. The baby had been born several weeks prematurely.

A nurse deposited 12 cc of human milk into the infant’s bloodstream through the PICC line with a nutrient syringe.

The evidence was not clear whether the nurse incorrectly attached the nutrient syringe directly to the PICC line or attached the syringe to the orogastric tube which, in turn, was incorrectly attached to the PICC line.

Milk infusion into the baby’s lungs required a lengthy stay in neonatal intensive care for 100% O<sub>2</sub> perfusion through a ventilator.

The lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court, Winnebago County, Illinois, faulted the nurse for incorrectly connecting the nutrient syringe to the PICC line in the first place, then for failing to monitor the patient closely during and after the infusion for possible signs of an adverse reaction.

The hospital settled for \$4,000,000 paid to the family for the infant’s benefit and also wrote off almost \$500,000 in medical expenses for the infant’s care in the hospital after the event occurred. **Ramos v. Rockford Health System, 2009 WL 6022024 (Cir. Ct. Winnebago Co., Illinois, June 25, 2009).**