

PICC: Hospital Pays Settlement After Newborn's Death From Sepsis.

The two infants, fraternal twins, were born at twenty-seven weeks and promptly transferred to the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit.

A peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) was started in the right axilla for one of the infants to infuse blood products, nutrition, lipids and medications.

Swelling and seeping began at the insertion site two days after the line was inserted, but nothing was reportedly done for another two days until the arm had become gangrenous and then necrotic and had to be amputated at another medical facility where the infant was transferred.

The infant died from sepsis thirty-six days after birth.

The nurses never transcribed into the chart the physician's verbal order to monitor the PICC insertion site for signs of infection.

The nurses should have known to monitor the site closely, with or without a physician's order, but there was no nursing documentation that monitoring was being done, leading to the conclusion the nurses did nothing while the arm became infected.

CIRCUIT COURT
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
September 17, 2010

The parents' lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court, Fairfax County, Virginia resulted in a \$1,000,000 settlement from the hospital for the loss of their newborn son due to the negligence of the hospital's nurses. **Confidential v. Confidential, 2010 WL 4971938 (Cir. Ct. Fairfax Co., Virginia, September 17, 2010).**