

Antibiotic: Nursing Home Contributes To Settlement For Adverse Reaction.

The eighty-seven year-old nursing home resident was prescribed Bactrim by his personal physician to treat a urinary tract infection.

The patient had an allergic reaction to the medication, eventually diagnosed as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, a form of toxic epidermal necrolysis, which caused second- and third-degree burns over 17% of his body.

One recognized cause of that disorder is an idiopathic reaction to medication. Treatment starts, once the condition is recognized, with immediate cessation of the medication causing the adverse reaction.

Allocation of fault in the settlement of the lawsuit filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania was apportioned 65% to the nursing home and 35% to the patient's physician.

The nursing home allegedly failed to notify the physician of a possible allergic reaction to a medication known to cause allergic reactions, specifically Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, when the patient started complaining of burning and itching sensations in his skin. **Lee v. Health Care & Retirement Corp., 2009 WL 4878254 (Ct. Comm. Pl. Allegheny Co., Pennsylvania, March 1, 2009).**