

Transport: Aspiration Pneumonia Caused By Aide's Negligence.

The patient was in the hospital recovering from removal of a brain tumor.

She had problems swallowing but had no difficulty breathing. Her lungs were clear and her chest x-ray was normal.

She was on oxygen with a humidifier connected in her oxygen line.

The humidifier apparently was laid on its side by an untrained patient transporter during the process of transferring her to a stretcher to transport her from her room for tests in another hospital department. That allowed water to flow into the patient's lungs through her oxygen line.

Non-sterile fluid in her lungs caused major problems with aspiration pneumonia which sent her back to the ICU.

The patient transporter testified he had received no training and was not aware of any particular precautions to be taken with a patient with a humidifier on her oxygen line.

SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI
December 6, 2007

The Supreme Court of Mississippi approved a judgment of \$150,000 in the patient's favor.

Since the patient transporter admitted he had no professional training, the court said the patient did not need expert testimony on professional standards for patient transport to file a negligence lawsuit. Univ. of Miss. Medical Center v. Pounders, ___ So. 2d ___, 2007 WL 4259977 (Miss., December 6, 2007).