

## **Patient Fall: Bed Alarm Not Activated, Large Verdict For Negligence.**

The patient was admitted to the hospital's ICU after a mild stroke which left him with some weakness on the left side of his body.

The ICU bed was equipped with a bed alarm to alert the nurses if the patient tried to get out of bed.

After receiving sleep medication the patient became disoriented. Apparently thinking he was still at home, he tried to get out of bed by himself to go to the bathroom, fell and injured his hip.

The jury in the Superior Court, Providence County, Rhode Island, awarded \$4,990,000 based on testimony that the ICU nurses were negligent for failing to turn on the bed alarm and that the hospital was negligent for failing to train the nurses in the care of high-risk fall patients. **Villegas v. Roger Williams Med. Ctr., 2009 WL 5416631 (Sup. Ct. Providence Co., Rhode Island, June 1, 2009).**