

## Fall: Bed Alarm Not Activated, Jury Finds Negligence.

The sixty-seven year-old patient was hospitalized after a fall at home after a mild stroke which left some degree of weakness on the left side of his body.

He was identified on admission as a high fall risk due to his history of a recent fall, his stroke and the residual weakness.

He was sent to the intensive care unit, where all of the beds at this hospital have alarms to alert the nurse when the patient attempts to get out of bed.

Confused and thinking he was at home the patient got out of bed during the night, fell on his weak left side and fractured his left hip.

The bed alarm was apparently never turned on by the ICU nurses. The jury in the Superior Court, Providence County, Rhode Island awarded him \$4,300,000 and his wife an additional \$230,000. **Villegas v. Roger Williams Med. Ctr.**, 2009 WL 3278733 (Sup. Ct. Providence Co., Rhode Island, June 25, 2009).