

Bi-Level Positive Airway Pressure: Nurses Did Not Follow Orders, Faulted For Patient’s Death.

The patient was admitted to the hospital for respiratory failure. He was started on and then weaned from a ventilator.

The patient had high blood pressure and a history of sleep apnea.

The physician ordered the patient be placed on bi-level positive airway pressure (BIPAP) at night and any time he took a nap.

The chart revealed that the physician’s order was transcribed by one of the patient’s nurses.

The patient died during the night with the BIPAP equipment not in use. It was not known whether he was asleep at the time.

The hospital paid a settlement to the estate for the nurses’ negligence.

A jury in the Circuit Court, Hillsborough County, Florida ruled the physician was not at fault. **Garcia v. Sokol, 2008 WL 5521427 (Cir. Ct. Hillsborough Co., Florida, December 5, 2008).**