

Blood Therapies: Jury Finds Nurses Not Negligent.

The fifteen year-old patient was diagnosed with thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura and began periodic plasmapheresis treatments at the hospital.

The patient's condition is generally recognized as fatal without treatment. Plasmapheresis treatment itself does involve an approximately 3% risk of an anaphylactic reaction.

The patient was admitted to the hospital fourteen months after her initial diagnosis. Plasmapheresis was attempted twice but both times resulted in anaphylactic reactions.

After several days the patient's hemoglobin dropped to 4.1. The physician ordered packed red cells which raised the hemoglobin to 6.2, but it soon fell back again to 4.1. A second transfusion was ordered and promptly started by the nurses, but the patient coded and died soon after the red cells were hung.

The patient's nurses obtained the blood draws that were ordered by the physicians, promptly communicated the lab results to the physicians and started the last transfusion promptly after it was ordered.

CIRCUIT COURT
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
October 4, 2010

The jury in the Circuit Court, Orange County, Florida found no negligence by the hospital's nurses.

The nurses did everything they could have and should have done to stay on top of the patient's critically low hemoglobin. They obtained the blood draws ordered by the physicians, kept the physicians informed of the lab results and obtained and hung the last transfusion of packed red blood cells when it was ordered.

The pediatric hematologist/oncologist reportedly did pay a confidential settlement to the parents. **Acevedo v. Orlando Regional Healthcare, 2010 WL 5781189 (Cir. Ct. Orange Co., Florida, October 4, 2010).**