

Corticosteroids: Physicians Failed To Read Nursing Notes.

While undergoing outpatient treatment for a flare-up of her multiple sclerosis the patient fell at home and had to be hospitalized for hip surgery.

Her physicians had her on IV and then po corticosteroids along with a po aspirin compound. It was not until the patient went into cardiac arrest that her physicians discovered her gastrointestinal bleeding.

Two days earlier the hospital nurses had documented in their nursing progress notes that they observed pallor in their patient. The physicians were faulted in the ensuing lawsuit for failing to read the nursing notes which could have alerted them in time that something was seriously wrong.

The family obtained a verdict of more than \$7 million against the physicians in the Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. **Estate of Mahunik v. Hebron**, 2007 WL 1296848 (Com. Pl, Allegheny Co, Pennsylvania, March 30, 2007).