

Deep Vein Thrombosis: Patient's Death Tied To Nursing Negligence.

The patient was discharged home after eight days in the hospital recovering from surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his lung. The surgery was judged a success by his treating physicians.

At the time of discharge the patient apparently was not instructed by his nurse to continue wearing his compression stockings, nor was he given compression stockings to take home with him from the hospital.

His left foot and ankle swelled two days out of the hospital. The patient's wife phoned the hospital twice and spoke with two different nurses.

The first nurse told the wife to make sure her husband continued wearing his compression stockings.

The wife replied that he was never given any compression stockings when he left the hospital but the nurse reportedly said nothing in reply.

The second time the wife phoned she reportedly was told there was no reason to be alarmed about his swollen foot and ankle but if it got any worse she should take him to the emergency room.

Cardiac Arrest / Death

Caused By Pulmonary Embolism

The patient began having trouble breathing and went into cardiac arrest shortly after his wife's second phone call to the hospital.

Paramedics rushed the patient to the hospital E.R. He was revived but then suffered two more episodes of cardiac arrest and died.

Evidence was given at trial in the Circuit Court, Jackson County, Missouri that the arrest was caused by a pulmonary embolism from a deep vein thrombosis. The jury awarded the widow \$1,300,000 from the hospital for the nurses' negligence.

Phillips v. Saint Luke's Health System, 2008 WL 2434180 (Cir. Ct. Jackson Co., Missouri, March 6, 2008).