

## Diabetic Patient: Nurse Practitioner Misdiagnosed Over The Phone.

The father called the child's pediatrician's office and spoke with a nurse practitioner because his nine year-old son had been lethargic, disoriented and feeling very ill for three days.

The nurse practitioner diagnosed the symptoms as a viral infection and told the father to bring him to the office the next day if he did not improve by then.

When the boy stopped breathing the next morning the father called 911. By the time they got the boy to the hospital his pupils were fixed and dilated and there was no heartbeat or spontaneous respiration.

Hospital personnel were not able to resuscitate him.

The labs that came back after the boy had already been pronounced disclosed a blood glucose of 1,165 and a potassium level of 7.1.

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***Lethargy and disorientation in a pediatric diabetic patient can be signs of a potentially life-threatening emergency.***

***The parents should have been instructed to take the child to an emergency room at once for evaluation and treatment.***

SUPERIOR COURT  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
September 1, 2010

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The parents' lawsuit filed in the Superior Court, Middlesex County, Massachusetts settled for \$1,000,000.

The parents' lawyers were prepared to argue that lethargy and disorientation in a pediatric diabetic patient can be signs of a potentially life-threatening medical emergency which requires that the parents be advised to take the child to an emergency room at once for evaluation and treatment. ***Confidential v. Confidential, 2010 WL 6538290 (Sup. Ct. Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, September 1, 2010).***