

Diabetic Patient Dead From Hypoglycemia: Jury Finds No Nursing Negligence.

The twenty-seven year-old patient was ten weeks pregnant when her ob/gyn admitted her to the hospital.

Her earlier pregnancies had not gone well. This time she was having a very difficult time with nausea and vomiting.

The patient's long-term health history was significant for a Type I diabetes. Once she was in the hospital her ob/gyn had an endocrinologist take over management of her diabetes. That entailed strictly controlling her nutritional intake, closely monitoring her blood-glucose levels and frequently adjusting her insulin dosages.

The documentation shows that the patient's nurses communicated frequently with the patient's physician and followed his instructions to the letter for the patient's blood-sugar testing and insulin dosages.

CIRCUIT COURT, CALHOUN COUNTY
ALABAMA

November 21, 2008

Her nurse found her unresponsive in bed at 6:40 a.m. on the day planned for discharge when the nurse came by for a scheduled blood-glucose test. She was pronounced ten minutes later. The post-mortem blood glucose was less than 20.

The jury in the Circuit Court, Calhoun County, Alabama was not swayed by speculation that the physician must have ordered too much or the nurse must have given too much insulin at midnight.

There was no evidence of negligence. Lewis v. Zayed, 2008 WL 5691158 (Cir. Ct. Calhoun Co., Alabama, November 21, 2008).