

Dilantin Overdose: Settlement Paid For Nursing Negligence.

The infant began having seizures two days after birth and was transferred to the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit.

Phenobarbital was started for the seizures but it was not effective, so Dilantin was ordered.

The Dilantin was reportedly ordered to be given to the neonate IM but the nurse gave it IV instead, causing a high concentration of the medication to enter the bloodstream quickly.

Immediately after the IV infusion the infant's heart rate slowed and his extremities cooled. After he was intubated his vital signs improved.

The child was later diagnosed with autism. It was hotly disputed in the lawsuit filed on his behalf in the Superior Court, Hampden County, Massachusetts whether the autism was or was not the result of the incident in the hospital.

Nevertheless the hospital agreed to pay a \$6,000,000 settlement on his behalf. **Confidential v. Confidential, 2010 WL 2698345 (Sup. Ct. Hampden Co., Massachusetts, January 3, 2010).**