

Discharge Instructions: Nurse And Physician Ruled Not Liable.

The fifty-one year-old male patient was admitted to the hospital on a Sunday for possible cardiac symptoms. He was seen in the hospital by a cardiologist.

The cardiologist wanted him to have stress testing on Monday, but the patient, with no health insurance, did not want to stay overnight in the hospital.

He was discharged with instructions from the cardiologist, which were repeated by the nurse, to come back the next day for his test and to have certain prescriptions, including nitroglycerine, filled at a pharmacy and to begin taking the medications.

The patient never had his prescriptions filled and never came back, probably because of financial reasons. He died six days later from a cardiac arrhythmia.

The jury in the Circuit Court, Palm Beach County, Florida believed the cardiologist and the nurse complied fully with the standard of care by making their best efforts to impress him with the seriousness of his condition and the need for compliance and follow-up. Dubreuil v. Foucauld, 2007 WL 684317 (Cir. Ct., Palm Beach Co., Florida, January 23, 2007).