

## Discharge Orders: Mix-Up Leads To Overdose.

The elderly patient had a long history of heavy narcotics dosages for chronic pain. She was discharged to a nursing home after hospitalization for a fall at home.

The discharge order for 15 mg of morphine twice daily was transcribed as 15 mg and 30 mg doses each twice daily. The resident was also reportedly allowed access to alcohol at the nursing home. She died from acute morphine toxicity.

The jury in the Superior Court, Pima County, Arizona hit the nursing home with a \$6,000,000 verdict for negligence. **Culpepper v. Manor Care, 2008 WL 2744197** (Sup. Ct. Pima Co., Arizona, April 14, 2008).