

Feeding Tube: Patient's Death Tied To Nursing Negligence.

While undergoing rehabilitation after a stroke the patient developed swallowing problems and had to have a PEG tube inserted into his stomach.

A few days after he began bleeding at the tube insertion site he was transferred from the rehab facility to a full-service acute care hospital. Sixteen hours after the transfer he was taken to the operating room for an emergency endoscopy to find out what was going on with the PEG tube. During that procedure he arrested and died.

The patient's nurses at the rehab facility were held partially to blame for his death for failing to report the bleeding from the insertion site as well as his complaints of ongoing severe pain and progressive changes in his mental status. The bleeding was caused by the bolster holding the tube in the stomach being too tight and impinging on the epigastric artery.

The jury in the District Court, Tarrant County, Texas awarded more than \$5,000,000. **Chesser v. Lifecare Hosp., 2009 WL 6764150 (Dist. Ct. Tarrant Co., Texas, December 22, 2009).**