

Groshong Catheter: Patient's Death Tied To Substandard Nursing Care.

The patient was discharged home from the hospital with a Groshong catheter in place for IV administration of antibiotics and arrangements for care by a home health nurse.

The nurse who usually came to see the patient used her scissors one day in changing the dressing at the catheter site, apparently cut the tubing and left the home without realizing anything was wrong until the patient's wife phoned the agency to get her back later that afternoon.

When the nurse returned a neighbor watched, and would later testify, that she pulled and tugged on the catheter, taped over the cut in the tubing and tried to flush the clotted blood from it with air.

The patient's condition deteriorated rapidly and he had to be taken to the hospital. The catheter was dislodged from the right atrium of the heart and was lodged somewhere under the clavicle. The patient died the next day. Mary Breckinridge Healthcare v. Eldridge, __ S.W. 3d __, 2008 WL 5428213 (Ky. App., December 31, 2008).