

Moving Hospital Bed: Physician Struck In Hallway Obtains Verdict.

A hospital employee and a sales rep from an orthopedic supply company were wheeling a patient in a hospital bed through a hospital corridor when they turned a corner and the bed's foot board struck a physician in the knee who was standing near a nurses station.

A nurses aide, who was a hospital employee, was walking backward pulling the foot of the bed when the bed's foot board struck the physician who was standing in the hallway.

The other person, pushing the head of the bed, was supposed to be watching where they were going and steering the bed.

The nurses aide should not have tried to transport a patient in bed without notifying and getting assistance from her supervisor.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
October 8, 2010

A seemingly innocuous bruise on the physician's knee progressed to necrotizing fasciitis after a few weeks.

The physician, a diabetic, had to be admitted to a university teaching hospital for a lengthy course of debridement surgeries and hyperbaric treatments, which were unsuccessful in staving off an above-the-knee amputation of the lower leg.

He has not been able to continue his private practice as a neurosurgeon. That has translated into a substantial reduction of his previous earning capacity. The jury in the Court of Common Pleas, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania awarded damages of \$3,250,000 to the physician. ***Sedor v. Community Med. Ctr., 2010 WL 5166685 (Ct. Comm. Pl. Lackawanna Co., Pennsylvania, October 8, 2010).***