

Hydration: Facility Pays Settlement For Death From Renal Failure, Sepsis.

The eighty-two year-old patient was admitted to a skilled nursing facility to receive IV antibiotics for a urinary tract infection.

Three weeks later she had to be transferred to an acute care hospital. She was in renal failure and was suffering from sepsis. She died six days later.

The family's lawsuit against the skilled nursing facility alleged that there was inadequate attention to the patient's intake and output of fluid despite the importance of adequate hydration to her recovery and her high risk for dehydration.

The patient's risk for dehydration was compounded, it was alleged, because she was receiving Sinequan, Ambien and Valium which reportedly were administered to her on numerous occasions without obtaining specific consent for use of psychotropic medications from her daughter who was named as her surrogate healthcare decision maker in her power of attorney.

Lack of adequate hydration prevented proper propulsion of the bowels, which led to ischemic colitis, it was alleged.

Close monitoring of input and output would have identified her need for more fluids, the family's experts were prepared to testify.

SUPERIOR COURT
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
July 10, 2010

The family accepted a pre-trial settlement of \$850,000 and agreed to drop the lawsuit filed by the administrator of the patient's probate estate in the Superior Court, Orange County, California. **Eagle v. ACME Skilled Nursing, 2010 WL 3625186** (Sup. Ct. Orange Co., California, July 10, 2010).