

Labor & Delivery: Good Nursing Documentation, No Negligence Found.

The patient sued her obstetrician and the hospital alleging she was injured by the Foley catheter inserted after the physician decided not to continue her labor but instead to deliver the baby by cesarean.

The protocol was for the nurses to chart on the bedside computer the activity related to the patient's labor and delivery and postpartum care.

The objective is to record the data contemporaneously with the events, but this is not always possible given the need to care for the patient, which is the primary concern.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CONNECTICUT
February 10, 2011

The Superior Court of Connecticut pointed to a nursing progress note, "*Foley in place draining blood tinged urine prior to OR and during OR.*" The blood tinged urine was further described as, "*urine in the bag with little specs of blood in it.*"

The labor and delivery nurse was able to testify, based on twenty-five years experience, this is not unusual when a patient has a c-section after trying for vaginal delivery. If there was dark red blood in the Foley bag she would have charted that fact and would have notified the obstetrician.

Minutes earlier the nurse charted, "*3-way stock-cock applied, abdomen prep done, Foley inserted.*" She could not recall this c-section but testified it was her practice to examine the Foley bag carefully before, during and after every procedure.

Based on the thorough nursing documentation which revealed nothing out of the ordinary, the Court found no nursing negligence. ***Bona v. Matonis, 2011 WL 783618 (Conn. Super., February 10, 2011).***