

Lab Results Left Out Of Chart: Hospital Settles With Family Of The Deceased.

The patient was in a skilled nursing facility for rehab after knee surgery.

With a history of blot clots in her lungs her physician had her on Coumadin with routine orders for blood work to monitor her clotting factors.

Eight days after surgery the results of blood work came back from the lab showing an unacceptably high level of a clotting factor which should have been reported to the attending physician as an indication the Coumadin dosage needed to be stepped up or other medical follow-up was needed.

The patient's nurse, however, never contacted the physician or forwarded the lab results to him.

The patient died from blood clots in her lungs two days after the lab results came back.

After the patient died her nurse reportedly went back and made sure the lab test results were in the chart and also forged a back-dated progress note to the effect that she had contacted the physician when the lab results were first forwarded to her.

The facility basically admitted there was an error and negotiated a \$900,000 settlement in exchange for the family dropping their lawsuit filed in the Superior Court, Essex County, New Jersey. **Estate of Wells v. White House Healthcare, 2009 WL 4275203 (Sup. Ct. Essex Co., New Jersey, September 30, 2009).**