

No Restraints: Family Obtains Settlement.

The elderly patient reportedly had a significant history of decannulating her tracheostomy collar and pulling on her trache and gastrostomy tubing.

The day before and earlier the day she died she was seen pulling on her tubing. Late in the evening she was found unresponsive with her trache tube, gastrostomy tube and pulse oximeter all disconnected.

The family's lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court, Kane County, Illinois claimed the nursing home's nurses should have restrained the patient on an emergency basis and then contacted the physician for orders for ongoing restraints.

The lawsuit settled for a payment of \$325,000 to the patient's estate. **Rissinger v. Countryside Care Ctr., 2010 WL 2220236 (Cir. Ct. Kane Co., Illinois, April 8, 2010).**