

Obstructed Bowel: Patient’s Death Related To Nursing Negligence.

The patient came to the emergency department with abdominal symptoms which called for his physicians to rule out a bowel obstruction. That meant doing a CT scan with oral contrast medium.

Before receiving the contrast medium the contents of the patient’s stomach were to be cleared using a nasogastric tube.

Without starting the nasogastric tube the patient’s nurses gave him the Dilaudid that was ordered for sedation during the CT scan. Then they had the patient begin swallowing the contrast medium.

The patient aspirated the contrast medium into his lungs as he became stuporous and then unresponsive from the Dilaudid. He had to be transferred to a teaching hospital where he died eleven days later.

The hospital agreed to settle the family’s case filed in the Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan for \$510,000. **Brooks v. Leone**, 2010 WL 2852660 (Cir. Ct. Wayne Co., Michigan, March 20, 2010).