

Overdose: Nurse Ignored Patient's Complaints While Refilling Medication Pump.

The jury in the State Court of Bibb County, Georgia awarded \$1,278,321 from an agency which provides skilled nursing services to homebound patients to the family of a deceased patient who lapsed into a coma while an agency nurse refilled her medication pump and died twenty-five days later.

The patient was on medication for chronic pain after her back surgeries. A nurse regularly came to the home to re-inject pain medication into the pump.

On the day in question the patient reportedly complained to the nurse about tingling in her fingers as she was re-filling the pump. The nurse continued injecting pain medication into the pump until the patient became unconscious and the nurse had to start CPR and call 911.

The expert testimony at trial faulted the nurse for not recognizing the patient's complaints of tingling in her fingers as a sign of an overdose. The nurse was found negligent for not stopping the refill procedure at that point. Hall v. I.V. Care of Middle Georgia, 2010 WL 1673350 (State Ct. Bibb Co., Georgia, January 28, 2010).

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