

Parkinson's: Nursing Home Resident Did Not Receive Her Meds On Time.

The downward spiral in an eighty-one year-old nursing home resident's health that led to her death allegedly could be traced to neglect by the nursing staff to see to it that she got her Parkinson's medication on schedule.

Before entering the nursing home her Parkinson's was reportedly well controlled with her medication and she had no prior history of skin breakdown.

She started not eating and not taking in fluids as she should have.

She started losing weight, became incontinent and developed a urinary tract infection.

Skin breakdown started on her buttocks and progressed to a Stage III decubitus, with MRSA involvement, that had to be debrided in the hospital.

Then she was sent to a hospice where she passed.

SUPERIOR COURT
DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
May 1, 2009

The family filed suit in the Superior Court, Durham County, North Carolina.

The nursing home was prepared to argue that the patient had already reached end-stage Parkinson's before she was admitted to the facility and that the outcome was basically inevitable even with the best possible nursing assessment and care.

The nursing home nevertheless agreed to pay a pre-trial settlement of \$380,000 to the beneficiaries of the patient's probate estate. ***Confidential v. Confidential***, 2009 WL 2501820 (Sup. Ct. Durham Co., North Carolina, May 1, 2009).