

Patient Assaulted: Nursing Home Not Able To Explain Bruising On Body.

After the elderly Alzheimer's patient passed away her family sued the nursing facility. They claimed the noticeable bruising they had seen on her body was caused by physical and sexual assaults.

No Nursing Documentation To Account For Bruising

The physician retained as an expert by the nursing facility testified that the heparin the patient was getting made her highly susceptible to bruising. However, the physician was not able to point to any specific event that could have caused the bruising. He conceded that any unusual occurrence like a fall, if it had happened, should have and would have been documented in the nursing notes. That left open the possibility that the resident was assaulted as was claimed.

The jury in the Circuit Court, Macomb County, Michigan awarded \$240,000 to the family. Estate of Adam v. Sisters of Bon Secours, 2009 WL 3748686 (Cir. Ct. Macomb Co., Michigan, January 28, 2009).