

## IM Phenergan: Nurse Followed Standard Of Care, Jury Says.

The patient had nausea and vomiting after gallbladder surgery. A nurse gave her Phenergan 25 mg IM. The injection site became inflamed, then necrotic, requiring debridement and skin grafting which left a visible scar.

The jury ruled the nurse was not negligent. The Supreme Court of Mississippi upheld the jury's verdict.

The nurse testified in her pre-trial deposition she used a one-inch needle. Later, in the trial, she changed her testimony. She said she misspoke before and actually used a one and one-half inch needle, that being the only needle that would have been available on the unit.

Use of the longer needle, the nursing experts testified, is within the standard of care. It is long enough in most cases to ensure that the medication will reach the underlying muscle tissue and not disperse into the overlying soft tissue.

A bad outcome does not prove negligence, the court pointed out. Johnson v. St. Dominics Memorial Hosp., \_\_ So. 2d \_\_, 2007 WL 3104953 (Miss., October 25, 2007).