

Postpartum Bleeding: Jury Rules Nurses Not At Fault.

Six hours after an induced delivery the patient had to have a dilation and curettage under saddle-block anesthesia because she had been expelling large blood clots. Fifteen minutes after the D & C she coded and died. The cause of death could not be established in the autopsy.

The family's lawsuit, among other things, alleged faulty monitoring by the postpartum nurses before the D & C.

The nurses reported to her obstetrician that she had stable vital signs but was expelling large blood clots, some estimated at 500 cc, and had lost a lot of blood while voiding urine. The nurses did not flush the toilet, so that the physician could see what was there when he came to see the patient. The nurses also re-started a specified dose of pitocin and performed uterine fundal massage as ordered.

The Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division, approved the jury's verdict exonerating the physicians, nurses and hospital.

The jury rejected the family's nursing expert's opinion that the nurses should have counted and calculated a total net fluid weight for all the pads she had used. **Hein v. Community Medical Center, 2006 WL 2265100 (N.J. App., August 9, 2006).**