

Preeclampsia: Nurses Failed To Advocate For The Patient.

When she was admitted to the hospital to deliver her baby the mother had signs and symptoms of preeclampsia, high blood pressure, edema, abnormal EKG's, chest tightness and difficulty breathing.

Although her situation worsened after her baby was born her physician declined to provide further care and reportedly told the nurses not to call him any more.

When the patient complained she felt she was suffocating she was transferred to the ICU and intubated, but died several days later from aspiration pneumonia.

After the mother delivered her baby her physician told the hospital's nurses not to call him any more.

The nurses did not call him any more and did not report her condition to any other physician.

DISTRICT COURT
DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
August 9, 2010

The family's lawsuit in the District Court, Dallas County, Texas resulted in a \$1,000,000 settlement, most of which was paid by the physician and his medical practice group.

Nurses Did Not Advocate for the Patient

However, the hospital still contributed a portion of the settlement. The hospital's nurses failed to advocate for the patient when it became obvious that her classic signs and symptoms of preeclampsia were not improving, her condition was actually deteriorating and the physician who had been caring for her was doing nothing for her and expressly stated he was not going to do anything further for her.

Orders should have been obtained from another physician to transfer the patient to the ICU for close monitoring and necessary treatment before emergency intubation became necessary. Robinson v. Texas Health, 2010 WL 6543159 (Dist. Ct. Dallas Co., Texas, August 9, 2010).