

## **Prenatal Care: Lawsuit Faults Nurse Practitioner.**

A lawsuit in the US District Court for the Central District of California resulted in a settlement of \$470,000 awarded to the infant born with chromosomal abnormalities and \$30,000 to the parents.

The twenty-nine year-old mother, pregnant with her third child, had an ultrasound at eight weeks which was normal.

She asked her nurse practitioner at least twice during her prenatal care for repeat ultrasounds.

Her nurse practitioner refused, allegedly on the grounds that the state agency Medi-Cal would not pay for it.

The nurse practitioner referred her as a private-pay patient to a clinic which was in questionable status with state and Federal authorities. The ultrasound from the clinic, which reportedly was sent to the hospital but never reviewed by the nurse practitioner, showed the fetus had six fingers.

The lawsuit claimed the nurse practitioner should have done repeat ultrasounds herself and should have been alerted by the outside clinic's ultrasound to the possibility of a chromosomal abnormality and done follow-up amniocentesis testing. **Confidential v. Confidential, 2008 WL 4223605 (C.D. Cal., June 30, 2008).**