

Student Nurse: Errors And Omissions Are Professional Malpractice.

According to the record in the Court of Appeals of Michigan, a student nurse administered nystatin to a patient through an intravenous line rather than giving it orally and the patient soon died as a direct result.

The family sued the hospital where it happened and the board of regents of the university where the student nurse was enrolled. The circuit court dismissed the family's lawsuit on the grounds the family's attorneys did not file an expert witness report as required by state law.

Failure of a student nurse to read, understand and implement a physician's order is professional malpractice, not ordinary negligence.

The reasons why a nystatin suspension must be given orally and not intravenously are not within the common understanding of lay persons.

COURT OF APPEALS OF MICHIGAN
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The Court of Appeals of Michigan agreed and upheld the dismissal.

A student nurse is required to exercise professional nursing judgment when administering medications. A student nurse is expected to understand the importance of correctly reading and following physicians orders and must also understand and follow safety considerations when administering medications to patients.

Expert testimony is required to sue for a student nurse's errors and omissions, the court ruled. **Dennis v. Specialty Select Hosp.-Flint**, 2005 WL 2402454 (Mich. App., September 29, 2005).