
PI FAX & Email ALERT
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FALLING DOWN AT HOSPITALS

The Wall Street Journal (3.23.05) reports on the large extent of accident falls of feeble patients under hospitals' exclusive care and control. The 'accidental' fall is one of the most surprising and dangerous hazards facing patients. Reporting more than 1,000,000 falls annually, researchers believe 30% or more result in serious injuries. The injuries include hip fractures and life threatening head injuries.

Young males are particularly susceptible because they do not understand their limited physical abilities when under drug therapy.

The falls increase health-care costs. From 15,000 to \$30,000 in additional therapy costs. We wonder, who pays for that?

Who's At Risk?

- A patient with history of falls
- Mental status: confusion
- Unsteady or shuffling gait
- Shortness of breath, unstable glucose levels or vertigo
- Problems with incontinence
- Four or more medications
- Environmental: chest tube walks with assistive device.

Hospitals rarely get sued for these easily avoidable injuries. Smart hospital are taking more caution by:

- Signs on doors to warn staffers
- Beds in a lower position
- Warning patients of recent mopping
- Staff leaving trays near bed
- Warning lights when a patient goes to toilet.

If your patient was hurt in an injury producing fall...you should call us.

BICYCLIST HIT DOOR OF CAR TURNING IN FRONT OF HER

Ruthe Schmutz, 28 a student was struck in La Jolla by a 1999 Honda who make a left turn into her bicycle. Defendant argued that he nearly completed his turn and Ruthe was not watching where she was going and going 'too fast'.

Ruthe suffered back contusions, elbow, and neck injuries and road rash. Defendant argued that the chiropractic care was excessive.

Ruthe's medical bills were \$5094 and she got a total award for \$ 13,571, even after the jury imposed a 25% reduction for Ruthe's contributory negligence.

Michael Gottlieb DC San Diego and Michele Ross DC San Diego served as Ruthe's only medical experts. WELL DONE.

Brian Killeen argued for the defendant and insurance company.

Thank you

Our annual Advanced PI Seminar sold out weeks before the action packed April 9 event. Either we raise the prices or get more room. We certainly learned a good deal from Dr. Nordhoff's latest research on Motor Vehicle Collision Injuries [2005 Lippincott] and Dr. Rose's excellent auto accident brain injury discussion.

QUESTION?

Let us know by return email if you believe you, your staff or your colleagues would be interested in a one day BASIC PI Seminar.

And, if Relicensure important to you for this seminar.

We find that with staff turnover, many of the PI fundamentals are quickly forgotten. And some new doctors do not grasp simple PI managing concepts.