

Alzheimer's: No Chair Alarm, No Soft Restraint, Facility Settles For Broken Hip.

The seventy year-old Alzheimer's patient fell three times in his first three days in the nursing home.

The third fall resulted in a broken hip and surgery in the hospital.

The nursing home's insurer agreed to pay an \$80,000 settlement. If the lawsuit which was filed in the Supreme Court, Suffolk County, New York had gone to trial the family's lawyers were prepared to argue several bases for liability.

The patient's diagnosis of Alzheimer's dementia made him a fall risk. Apparently no fall precautions were started when he first came in.

Regardless of his diagnosis, after falling twice in his first two days facility staff should have known he was high-risk.

They should have been using chair and bed alarms to alert staff that the patient was up and trying to ambulate.

The patient, it was alleged, was a good candidate for a soft restraint to keep him safely seated in his chair or safely lying in his bed. [Lopez v. Little Flower Rehab & Nursing, 2009 WL 5874631 \(Sup. Ct. Suffolk Co., New York, September 1, 2009\).](#)