

Cunningham Clamp: Facility Faulted For Inadequate Patient Teaching.

The forty-one year-old male patient was paraplegic from an old gunshot wound. He resided in an extended-care nursing facility.

After treating him for decubitus ulcers his physician decided to supplant his condom catheter with a Cunningham clamp, a metal and foam-rubber device which clamps the penis to control male urinary incontinence.

The physician ordered the clamp from a medical supplier to be delivered directly to the nursing facility.

The clamp arrived at the facility and was issued directly to the patient. The physician phoned two days later and informed the nursing staff that the clamp had to be removed at least q 2 hours.

The Cunningham clamp was issued directly to the patient by the facility's nursing staff without any patient teaching, that is, without the patient being instructed that it had to be taken off at least every two hours and kept off for at least a half hour to avoid damage to the penis.

SUPREME COURT, KINGS COUNTY
NEW YORK
March 6, 2007

The damage was already done. The patient obtained a settlement of \$500,000 from the nursing home's insurance company before his case was scheduled for trial before the Supreme Court, Kings County, New York. ***Biggs v. Greenstein***, 2007 WL 912188 (N.Y. Supp., March 6, 2007).