

## UTI: Negligent Care Implicated In Patient's Death From Sepsis.

The eighty year-old patient was accepted for a planned thirty-day stint of respite care in a long-term care facility.

He had had a prostatectomy and had a urostomy, making him particularly susceptible to urinary tract infections.

On admission his BUN and creatinine levels pointed to decreased renal function. His urine sample was described in his admission progress note as smelling strongly and containing a white sediment as well as white blood cells and bacteria.

The nurse practitioner ordered culture and sensitivity testing to determine a suitable antibiotic to address the infection.

Nothing further was done for eight days while the patient's status deteriorated. He became agitated and confused and complained of neck pain. A chest x-ray showed infiltrates in the lungs.

He went to acute care, then to a hospice and died before the month was out.

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***When the patient was accepted into long-term care he already had clear signs of a urinary tract infection.***

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CALIFORNIA  
September 12, 2008

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The widow's lawsuit in the US District Court for the Northern District of California was settled before trial for \$40,000.

The patient's estate's lawyers were prepared to present a case of failure to monitor and report the patient's health status, failure to recognize that the long-term care facility could not meet his needs and failure to comprehend that starting oral antibiotics after systemic sepsis had already set in was too little too late. ***Immediato v. US, 2008 WL 5727440 (N.D. Cal., September 12, 2008).***