

Nurse As Patient's Advocate: Nurses' Inaction Had No Effect On Outcome, Court Says.

The Court of Appeals of Michigan dismissed the patient's lawsuit. The lawsuit alleged that the hospital's nurses failed to report his condition to the attending physician and failed to advocate for changes in his treatment plan.

The court pointed out there was no proof offered on the patient's behalf that, in fact, the attending physician would have taken a different course if the nurses had advocated for it.

The only relevant evidence was the testimony of the physician who took over as attending ten days later. He said there was nothing the nurses could have pointed out that the earlier attending physician did not already know at the time and no reason at the time for the physician to have changed the plan of care. Martin v. Ledingham, __ N.W. 2d __, 2009 WL 196178 (Mich. App., January 27, 2009).