

## Chest Pains: Nurse Should Have Notified Physician.

The patient came to the hospital with a laceration to his forehead. After the cut was treated he was admitted to the hospital for observation overnight.

During the night he complained to his nurse he was having chest pains.

The nurse gave him five separate doses of nitroglycerin through the night without obtaining a physician's order and without even consulting with a physician.

The next morning his own physician came in, learned he had been having chest pains, decided he had had a myocardial infarction and had him transferred to the ICU at another hospital, where he passed away later that day.

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### ***Angina suggests a myocardial infarction.***

### ***Myocardial infarction requires prompt medical intervention starting with an EKG, cardiac enzymes and a cardiology consult.***

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL  
OF FLORIDA  
January 10, 2007

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The District Court of Appeal of Florida ruled there were grounds for a negligence lawsuit against the hospital for the nurse's errors and omissions.

The sticking point was that the patient's estate's medical expert's report only referred to the hospital's nursing and medical staffs in general terms without saying exactly who did or did not do what.

The court ruled that was not a fatal flaw for the lawsuit. The general idea did come through that there was a failure to obtain immediate medical follow-through for possible symptoms of a myocardial infarction in progress. **Michael v. Medical Staffing Network, Inc., \_\_\_ So. 2d \_\_\_, 2007 WL 57604 (Fla. App., January 10, 2007).**