

## Decubitus Ulcers: Settlement Paid.

When the elderly patient was admitted to the hospital for a total knee replacement her nursing assessment showed no problem with her skin integrity.

When she left the hospital three weeks later she reportedly did have pressure ulcers. After only four days in a nursing home she had to be re-admitted to the hospital for several weeks to undergo multiple surgical debridement procedures for her decubitus ulcers.

At another nursing home she got specialized wound care for osteomyelitis until she died almost a year later.

The hospital and nursing home were faulted in the family's lawsuit for failing to turn and reposition her every two hours, failing to initiate pressure-relief measures, failing to provide adequate hygiene and nutritional support and failing to monitor and document changes in her condition.

The hospital and first nursing home contributed to a \$120,000 settlement of the family's lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan. **Estate of Butler v. Henry Ford Health System, 2009 WL 4406770 (Cir. Ct. Wayne Co., Michigan, August 14, 2009).**