

## **Emergency Room: Nurses Blamed For Patient's Death From MI After Discharge Home.**

**T**he patient came to the E.R. with chest pains.

She was given two EKG's, one which was normal and one which showed a septal infarct whose age could not be determined. A chest x-ray was read as normal. She was seen by the physician and discharged after receiving a dose of oral captopril and an albuterol inhalation treatment in the E.R.

Early the next morning she was taken by ambulance from her home to another hospital where she was pronounced dead from a myocardial infarction.

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***The E.R. nurses failed to assess fully and communicate to the physician the nature, duration and extent of the patient's chest pain, failed to ask for orders for enzyme tests, failed to question the order for early discharge without her being kept for observation and failed to access the nursing chain of command by going to a nursing supervisor.***

DISTRICT COURT  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS  
January 20, 2010

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The jury in the District Court, Jefferson County, Texas ruled the E.R. nurses were 80% and the E.R. physician 20% liable for the patient's death and awarded \$1,315,275 from the hospital as the nurses' employer in addition to \$162,112 the family had already received from the E.R. physician as a pre-trial settlement.

The family's nursing experts placed a heavy weight of responsibility directly on the nurses to orchestrate and ensure proper care for this cardiac patient in the E.R. **Licatino v. Christus Health, 2010 WL 4388956 (Dist. Ct. Jefferson Co., Texas, January 20, 2010).**