

Emergency Room: Nurse's Care Of Dog Bite Victim Met The Standard Of Care.

The patient had to return to the E.R. the next day and be admitted for surgical drainage of an infected abscess at the site of a dog bite.

Even with the most appropriate initial wound care in the emergency department it is not uncommon in dog-bite cases for the patient to have to return to the emergency department for treatment of an infection.

The nurse's discharge instructions fully complied with the standard of care.

The patient was instructed how she should care for her sutured and bandaged wounds, to take her antibiotic and to return if she saw signs of infection or had a reaction to the antibiotic.

NEW YORK SUPREME COURT
APPELLATE DIVISION
January 21, 2010

The New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, accepted the hospital's medical expert's testimony that infection is not an uncommon development with dog bites, even with the best of medical care.

Further, the E.R. nurse gave the patient discharge instructions that met the standard of care for an E.R. nurse.

Nurse Should Have Had the Patient Sign the Discharge Instructions

The nurse neglected to have the patient sign the copy of the discharge instructions retained in the chart. It would have been better if she had, but it did not make her or the hospital liable. DeLorenzo v. St. Clare's Hosp., __ N.Y.S.2d __, 2010 WL 184217 (N.Y. App., January 21, 2010).