

## Falls: Inadequate Care Leads To Death, Big Verdict.

The ninety-nine year-old dementia patient reportedly fell eleven times in the nursing home before her final fall which resulted in a neck fracture at C-2.

Surgery was not done because of her advanced age. She lingered in the hospital for seven months in a neck brace during which time she developed bed sores and eventually died from a stroke.

Even though she fell eleven times before the last time there were no specific fall precautions undertaken.

The family's attorneys argued in court before the jury that she should have been given stepped-up supervision and bed and chair alarms and soft mats should have been placed on the floor at her bedside.

Right before her last fall she had just been placed on the locked Alzheimer's unit, but no one reportedly checked on her for more than two hours before she was found on the floor in her room in a puddle of blood with a gash on her forehead, black eyes and a broken neck.

The jury in the Circuit Court, Broward County, Florida awarded damages to the family of \$2,395,828 including \$145,828 for the medical bills for treatment during her last hospitalization. **Pagano v. Hillsborough Management, 2011 WL 1113122 (Cir. Ct. Broward Co., Florida, February 23, 2011).**