

Psych: No Fall-Risk Assessment Done, Negligence Found.

The day before she fell and fractured her right tibia and fibula the fifty-seven year-old patient was involuntarily admitted to the hospital's psychiatric unit for suicidal ideation. She had been in the same hospital several times over the previous few months for the same reason.

Psychiatric Admission

No Fall-Risk Nursing Assessment

The fall-risk portion of the admission nursing assessment form was crossed out with the letters "N.A." signifying that the nurse believed that risk assessment and fall precautions are not included in psychiatric care. The same nurse's admitting progress notes pointed to unsteady gait, muscle weakness, confused mental state and poor judgment.

The patient reportedly awoke, rang for help to the restroom, got no response and got up on her own. The jury in the Supreme Court, Richmond County, New York awarded her \$598,000. **Cifelli v. St. Vincent's**, 2008 WL 4093163 (Sup. Ct. Richmond Co., New York, July 17, 2008).