

Faulty Transfer: Femoral Head Dislodged.

The patient went to a skilled nursing facility for rehab after hip surgery.

In a transfer from his bed to a chair by two facility employees his leg was bent and twisted underneath him, dislodging the femoral head of his hip prosthesis. The damage was discovered two days later when he was re-admitted to the hospital.

The facility was faulted for failing to provide staff adequately trained in transfer techniques who would appreciate his vulnerability to re-injury.

It was further alleged the facility's nursing staff was negligent for failing to detect that he had been injured in the transfer and for failing to appreciate the seriousness of the injury for two days while the patient was in obvious agony.

The facility succeeded only in winning a ruling from the Circuit Court, Winnebago County, Illinois that punitive damages were not appropriate. **Ingarra v. Rosewood Care Center, 2007 WL 5075846 (Cir. Ct. Winnebago Co., Illinois, November 29, 2007).**