

Neonatal Intensive Care: Nurses Delayed Reporting To Physician.

The baby was born at twenty-seven weeks and died twenty hours later in the neonatal intensive care unit.

The nurses reportedly observed and charted that the baby was breathing rapidly and showed other signs of respiratory distress including subcostal retractions, color changes and gasping. The capillary blood gases also had come back abnormal.

When the neonatologist phoned in for a report he was reportedly told the vital signs and other assessment data were fine.

It was not until four and one-half hours after signs of respiratory distress appeared, when the O₂ sat dropped into the 60's, that the neonatologist was contacted and told something was seriously wrong.

The parents' lawsuit in the District Court, Webb County, Texas settled for \$250,000, 60% from the hospital and 40% from the physician. [Elizalde v. Laredo Reg. Med. Ctr., 2009 WL 294506 \(Dist. Ct. Webb Co., Texas, January 26, 2009\).](#)