

Post-Op Care: Neurosurgery Patient Had Eluded Restraints, Yet No Sitter Was Ordered.

The thirty-three year-old patient was admitted to a rehab facility following removal of a brain tumor at a nearby teaching hospital.

In rehab she fell out of bed twice and fell once from her wheelchair, each time after working herself free from restraining straps.

One-on-one supervision was reportedly allowed by the facility's policies in some cases. The deceased patient's family's expert witnesses were prepared to testify this was a situation clearly calling for such close supervision.

The patient died following unsuccessful surgery to correct an cranial hematoma from head trauma from the last fall. The family's lawsuit filed in the Superior Court, Essex County, New Jersey settled before trial for \$850,000. ***Kimble v Kessler Inst., 2008 WL 5574834 (Sup. Ct. Essex Co., New Jersey, December 15, 2008).***