

## Emergency Room: Patient Dies From Pneumonia In The Hospital.

The sixty-two year-old patient was diagnosed with pneumonia shortly after she arrived in the hospital's emergency department.

The hospital did not have an open bed available at the time so the patient was kept in the E.R. holding area for almost twenty-four hours waiting to be admitted to a med/surg floor.

By the time she got to the floor she was anxious, diaphoretic, tachycardic and was hyperventilating. Soon she lost consciousness, became cyanotic and died.

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***The E.R. nurse noticed that the patient's O<sub>2</sub> sat had dropped to 80% even though she was on 5 liters of oxygen.***

***The E.R. nurse reported to the E.R. physician but did not follow up for new orders or other changes in what was being done.***

CIRCUIT COURT  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
May 1, 2010

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The hospital settled the family's lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan for \$575,000 without admitting liability. The patient's and hospital's names are being kept confidential according to the terms of the settlement.

The patient reportedly showed clear signs of acute respiratory distress in the E.R., including anxiousness, hyperventilation and an ominously low level of oxygen saturation.

The E.R. nurse was apparently aware of the situation, but after the nurse reported the patient's status to the physician nothing further was done by the nurse or the physician except to wait for a med/surg bed to open up so that they could transfer the patient out of the E.R. ***Confidential v. Confidential***, 2010 WL 5574556 (Cir. Ct. Wayne Co., Michigan, May 1, 2010).