

Psychotropic Meds: Patient Gets Settlement For Lack Of Informed Consent.

The settlement in the patient's favor was reported on condition that the identities of the patient and the nursing home be kept confidential.

The eighty-seven year-old nursing home patient was given multiple doses of psychotropic medications without his consent, that is, four doses of Risperdal, three oral and one IM, eight oral doses of Xanax, seven oral doses of Ambien and an IM injection of Haldol.

After receiving the medications the patient had to be hospitalized for over a month for treatment of delirium and partial paralysis, but he has now recovered and has been restored to his previous state of health.

The nursing home was cited for violation of the state's nursing home residents' bill of rights.

Before administration of any psychotropic medication state law requires a nursing home to verify that documentation is present in the patient's chart that the patient's physician has obtained informed consent from the patient.

This is not the case when there is documentation that an emergency exists in which immediate action must be taken.

SUPERIOR COURT
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
April 20, 2010

The patient received a settlement of \$375,000 as the case filed in the Superior Court, Santa Cruz, California was about to be assigned to a judge for jury trial. **Confidential v. Confidential, 2010 WL 4633544 (Sup. Ct. Santa Cruz Co., California, April 20, 2010).**