

## **IV Therapy: Nurses Faulted, Did Not Change, Rotate IV Sites.**

The patient was a twenty-seven year-old auto mechanic who was burned on his face, neck and hands when gasoline he spilled on himself accidentally ignited.

He went to the intensive-care burn unit at the hospital after skin graft surgery for third-degree burns on the back of his hand. His temperature spiked and his white blood count became elevated. These signs are not uncommon after skin graft surgery.

Later, however, a blood culture linked the infection to *Enterobacter cloacae*, which most likely entered his system through an IV insertion site.

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***An IV started outside the hospital by emergency paramedics has to be removed within twenty-four hours.***

***IV's started in the hospital have to be rotated on a regular basis to minimize the potential for infection.***

COURT OF APPEALS OF MICHIGAN  
April 26, 2007

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The Court of Appeals of Michigan accepted the testimony of two nursing experts who testified for the patient in his lawsuit against the hospital in reaching the decision he had grounds for his case.

An IV inserted outside the hospital has to be removed right away, once a new IV has been started, and that was not done here. The EMT's IV was left in the patient for an extended period of time. IV's started in the hospital have to be rotated every 72 to 96 hours to prevent infection.

The patient had to have the pus-filled basilic vein removed from his forearm and after the surgery was left with reflex sympathetic dystrophy in the underlying ulnar nerve. **Markabani v. Prasad, 2007 WL 1227709 (Mich. App., April 26, 2007).**