

## **E. R.: Patient Was Given Standard Care, No EMTALA Violation.**

When they brought their son to the hospital following an auto accident the patient's parents told the desk receptionist in the emergency room they had no medical insurance and their auto insurance would not cover the bill.

A triage nurse and then another nurse examined the patient and found vital signs and all systems within normal limits. The patient complained of rib and shoulder pain presumably from deployment of the airbag in the crash. A physician checked him, ordered x-rays and had the nurses give him pain medication. After his pain subsided in a few hours he was sent home with a diagnosis of two fractured ribs.

Days later he had to have surgery for a ruptured spleen, a problem that was missed in the emergency room.

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***The EMTALA protects uninsured patients from being treated differently in hospital emergency rooms.***

***The law is satisfied when such patients are treated the same as others.***

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
GEORGIA  
May 23, 2006

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The US District Court for the Middle District of Georgia found the hospital's nursing and medical staff complied fully with the US Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA).

The nurses and physician gave this patient the same medical screening examination and stabilizing treatment that any other patient, insured or not, would have received at that hospital with the same presenting history, signs and symptoms. **Bryant v. Archbold Memorial Hosp., 2006 WL 1517074 (M.D. Ga., May 23, 2006).**