

Stroke: Nurses Did Not Report Patient's Status To Physician.

The patient passed out at home and was taken to the E.R. by ambulance.

The E.R. doctor called in a neurologist, who was not able to rule out a cerebrovascular event *versus* a seizure and had the patient admitted to a med/surg floor.

After some bedside x-rays were done a nurse tried but was unable to rouse the patient with a deep sternal rub. The nurse just made a notation in the chart and did not notify the physician.

Over the next ten hours there was no record of any communication between the nurses and the physicians as to the patient's changing neurological status even though he was having difficulty moving his limbs, complained of right-side numbness, could not lift his right arm and could not squeeze with his right hand. The physician was not notified until the patient was unable to swallow, almost twelve hours after he had arrived on the med/surg floor.

The next morning the neurologist made a diagnosis of stroke.

The jury in the District Court, Boulder County, Colorado awarded \$1,000,000, 90% from the hospital and 10% from the neurologist. **Rademacher v. Katuna, 2007 WL 4925066 (Dist. Ct. Boulder Co., Colorado, May 24, 2007).**