

Urine Sample: Misdiagnosis Of Renal Bleeding Tied To Nurses’ Negligence.

The patient came to the emergency room with flank pain and other complaints pointing to a problem with her kidneys. The physician ordered a CT scan without contrast and urinalysis.

The nurses were supposed to obtain the urine sample by use of a catheter. Instead, the urine sample was obtained by clean catch.

The urine sample contained blood. The physician realized the sample had been obtained by clean catch rather than by catheter and assumed for that reason that the blood was not from the kidneys.

The physician released the patient. Two days later she returned to the emergency room. The blood clot in the kidney had progressed. Surgery was too late to save the kidney and it was removed.

Many people do well with only one kidney. However, the lawyers convinced the jury that her second admission and her unsuccessful surgery could be blamed on her caregivers’ negligence.

SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
February 28, 2006

The Superior Court of Delaware, New Castle County, upheld a jury verdict in the patient’s favor for \$570,000.

The jury apportioned the damages 40% against the hospital for the nurses’ negligence and 60% against the physician for misdiagnosing the patient’s condition based on the urine sample improperly obtained by the nurses. **Quesenberry v. Beebe Medical Center, Inc., 2006 WL 515455 (Del. Super., February 28, 2006).**