

INTEGRITY LEGAL NURSE CONSULTING PDX NEWSLETTER

Helping you understand medical issues,
giving you more time to practice law.

HAPPY SPRING TO YOU AND YOURS

MARCH/ APRIL 2016

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SERVICES INCLUDE:

- * **Providing medical record evaluation and analysis,**
- * **Screening cases for merit,**
- * **Developing chronology of events and timelines,**
- * **Providing cost projections**
- * **Coaching your client and attending DMEs,**
- * **Locating and vetting expert witnesses,**
- * **Serving as TE**

LABORATORY NEGLIGENCE

Are laboratories a potential source of negligence?

- Lab studies influence approximately 70% of medical decisions.
- While not all lab mistakes can injure or kill, they can cause significant problems and damages.
- Laboratories have many potential causes of negligence; setting can include medical labs, environmental labs, manufacturing and food testing labs.
- Potential causes of problems/ negligence include:
 1. Failure to keep machines clean,
 2. Equipment that does not work properly or properly maintained,
 3. Improper maintenance after collection,
 4. Use of expired chemicals or improperly stored reagents,
 5. Incorrectly labeled or collected specimens,
 6. Incorrect handling of specimens, as in not read within certain time frame,
 7. Lack of quality control.
- Labs are allowed to choose who inspects their facilities - between state inspectors or private accrediting organizations. Accrediting organizations have their own standards of care.
- While regulators and accrediting groups insist labs are closely monitored, they rely on educating lab operators. They do not typically use sanctions and unfortunately very difficult to obtain lab inspection paperwork.

Source: Milwaukie Journal Sentinel, May 2015

Our nurses are skilled at reviewing medical records for potential damages related to laboratory negligence.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE - WHAT A LEGAL NURSE CAN DO?

Forensic nurses provide necessary analysis of medical related issues.

- A forensic/ criminal defense case requires a forensic nurse to evaluate the medical related issues. The type of cases can include:
 1. Domestic Violence - Do the chart notes support abuse? Can include ligature marks, handprints, timing of events and potential for self inflicted injuries.
 2. Assault and Battery - Do the chart notes support or refute damages? Are there pre existing conditions that can affect injuries? Does the story support the injuries?
 3. Child Abuse - Do the chart notes support reported injuries, as in shaken baby? Possible issues can include the shaken baby triad as in acute or chronic subdural hematomas and metaphysical (broken bones at the major joints) that can be explained by accident or disease.
 4. Sexual Abuse - Was the investigation complete and thorough? What does the DNA show? Does the story match the physical findings?

Our forensic nurses are skilled at reviewing a variety of forensic cases.

TESTIMONIALS

"When we use Wendy, we get a thorough and complete report. She finds issues that I had never considered and her thorough analysis is worth every penny."

Kelly L. Andersen, Esq.

"Very nice report, the report will be useful to cut and paste into my settlement demand."

Jan Kitchel, Esq.

"Thank you so much for your timely response to this case. We appreciate what you do."

Katie Ireland, Esq.

"Wendy provides prompt, professional, courteous service with a ready smile that sets clients at ease. She lasers in on the medical issues that matter most to highlight them for legal review as we consider how to best represent out medical cases to the triers of fact."

Jenna Harden, Esq.

"Thank you for the hard work and detailed report."

Judy Snyder, Esq.

"This is awesome! You are well worth the money! Thanks Wendy."

Andrew Mathers, Esq.

"Because of several large cases going on at the same time, I had to find someone to do the medical review that my legal assistant normally does. I contacted Wendy and hired her for the job. The review was in the format and style I requested. It was every bit as thorough, perhaps even more, than my legal assistant. It was exactly what I needed. I would not hesitate to use Wendy again, in fact I am."

Jim Dwyer, Esq.

"You are truly a delightful person, and a consummate professional."

Sara M. Winfield, Esq.

"Thank you for your speedy work and comprehensive spreadsheet."

Jim Nelson, Esq.

"You did an excellent job."

Michael H. Bloom, Esq.

"Wendy Votroubek was very prompt and timely in providing her evaluation, focusing on the key issues in the case."

W. Wallace Ogdahl, Esq.

"Thanks so much, will definitely use you for another criminal case."

Zack Stern, Esq.

SAFETY IN NURSING HOMES, WHAT THE RESEARCH TELLS US

We all have opinions regarding the potential causes of poor care in nursing homes, what does the research show?

- Acute care hospitals have certain driving forces for safety as in Joint Commission; however might not be seen as a driving force in nursing homes.
- Important safety initiatives include medication errors, pain management, staffing ratios, restraints and resident falls.
- **For profit ownership, chain membership, low staffing levels and low private pay occupancy rates associated with low resident safety scores.** Providers may compromise care in pursuit of profits.
- Higher private pay residents associated with higher safety scores. Likewise, higher RN staffing associated with high resident safety scores and conversely lower safety scores with higher LPN care. (RNs are trained and skilled in critical thinking, as compared to LPN carrying out the care).
- More private pay residents enable facilities to pursue resident care /safety initiatives; safety initiatives can improve overall care as well as staff retention.

We are adept in determining best practice and any deviations from that care, while keeping a keen eye on if the facility kept the residents safe.

SHINGLES - INCREASED RISK OF HEART DISEASE AND STROKE

New information re shingles relate it to increased health risks.

- One in three people will get shingles at some point; 96 shingles death each year.
- Recommended that anyone age 60 or over should receive the shingles vaccine.
- Patients who have gotten the shingles vaccine can still have a 50% risk of developing shingles.
- Patients with herpes zoster or shingles have:
 1. 15% risk of stroke and mini stroke . If shingles affect facial nerve, vascular changes with increased risk of stroke.
 2. 10% risk of heart attack; higher risk of MI in the first week after shingles.
 3. If developed shingles before age of 40; 2.4 times increased risk of stroke and 1.5 times risk of mini stroke .
 4. Increased risks thought to potentially be due to inflammation with vascular disease as well as blood clots in people with hardening of arteries.

Our nurses are skilled at sorting out pre existing conditions that might cause increased risk factors.

In addition, anyone over 60 should get the shingles shot.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

If at any point you wish to no longer obtain the newsletter, please notify us to be taken off the mailing list.

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