

INTEGRITY LEGAL NURSE CONSULTING PDX NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

- *PTSD ASSOCIATED WITH VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
- *AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS
- *RESOURCE FOR BUSINESS VIDEOS
- *PAIN & SUFFERING IN PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS
- *DOS AND DON'TS OF NURSING DOCUMENTATION
- *PATIENTS CARED FOR BY FEMALE DOCTORS FARE BETTER



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SERVICES INCLUDE:

- * Providing medical record evaluation, analysis and summaries
- * 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
* Record retrieval

TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDERS CAN BE LINKED TO MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Recently, researchers have been looking more closely into car accidents as a common cause of traumatic stress

- Accidents are the traumatic event most frequently experienced by men (25%) and the second most frequent traumatic event experienced by women (13%).
- Mental health difficulties such as post-traumatic stress and anxiety are exhibited by many who experience severe motor vehicle accidents.
- 9% of motor vehicle accident survivors develop PTSD. Additionally, one study found that 27% of survivors who sought treatment had an anxiety disorder and 15% reported a phobia of driving.
- Risk factors for accident-related PTSD include a poor social support system, serious physical injury during the accident, potential life-threat during the accident, physical-limitations after the accident, and previous mental health problems.
- Treatments include behavior therapy, cognitive therapy, and medications.

Our nurses are skilled at determining risk factors and advising you on a client's condition and medical needs.

UNDERSTANDING THE REGULATIONS OF AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS

Ambulatory Surgery Centers are increasing in popularity and support, so it is more important than ever to be aware of their regulations

- Each year, more than 23 million procedures are performed by physicians in ASCs, facilities that are known for providing same-day, affordable surgical care.
- Patients admitted to an ASC must have a comprehensive medical history and physical assessment completed by a physician no more than 30 days before the date of scheduled surgery, regardless of the type of procedure.
- The physical assessment needs to specify that a patient is cleared for surgery in an ambulatory setting; this assessment should include evaluation of the risks of anesthesia.
- Upon admission, each patient must have a pre-surgical assessment completed.
- An anesthesia plan must be developed by an anesthesiologist, discussed with and accepted by the patient, and documented before a surgical procedure.
- Anesthesia must be administered by an anesthesiologist, other qualified physician, or nonphysician anesthesia personnel medically directed by an anesthesiologist.

We are adept at analyzing medical processes, detecting deviations, and insuring regulations are followed by ASCs and healthcare providers.

RESOURCE FOR BUSINESS VIDEOS

<http://www.compassrosevideo.com>

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.

"Thank you very much for your hard work on the case thus far - what I learned with you will surely help us out at mediation."
Kristen West McCall, 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 our 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.

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

PAIN AND SUFFERING IN PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS

Defining pain and suffering are some of the most difficult tasks for an insurance company or jury to decide.

- Because of the subjectivity and complexity of each individual case, there's no set way to calculate pain and suffering.
- Despite its complexity, some accepted ways to put a cost to pain include looking at total medical expenses, financial loss, and days spent in severe discomfort.
- It is important to remember that suffering includes not only physical pain, but emotional and psychological trauma as well.
- To prove pain and suffering, various documentation needs to be presented. This can include medical reports, prescription receipts, medical bills, proof of lost wages, and photos of the injuries.
- Credibility of the witness is also considered by juries and insurance companies. Factors that may be (fairly or unfairly) considered include the victim's job and income, age, community affiliation, lifestyle, location, pre-existing injuries, and choice of medical treatment.

We are capable of analyzing and assessing the severity of past and present medical conditions, including pain and suffering caused by them.

DOS AND DON'TS OF NURSING DOCUMENTATION

Proper nursing documentation is essential for ensuring that patients receive correct care and for analyzing nurse's role in malpractice suits

- DO check to insure you have the correct chart before writing
- DO chart the time you gave a medication, the administration route, and the patient's response
- DO be specific and write legibly
- DO record each phone call to a physician, including the exact time, message, and response
- DON'T alter a patient's record
- DON'T use shorthand or abbreviations that aren't widely accepted
- DON'T chart symptom without also charting what you did about it
- DON'T chart what someone else said, heard, felt, or smelled unless the information is critical. If that is the case, attribute the remarks by using quotations
- DON'T chart care ahead of time

Our nurses are skilled at categorizing and reviewing medical records and determining proper and improper documentation.

PATIENTS FAIR BETTER WHEN CARED FOR BY FEMALE DOCTORS

Harvard researchers have found that elderly hospitalized patients cared for by female doctors are less likely to die or be hospitalized again

- The study looked at more than a million Medicare patients over several years to see how they fared based on the MD's gender.
- Approximately 32,000 fewer patient would die annually if male physicians could achieve the same results as female physicians.
- One possible explanation is that female doctors are more likely to follow recommendations about prevention counseling, follow clinical guidelines and checklists, and order preventive tests.
- These results could also be due to differences in communication practices, empathy expressed, aversion to risk, and listening skills. Additionally, female doctors tend to spend more time with patients and better judges of symptoms and a patient's general well-being.

NEWSLETTER RESOURCES

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/trauma/other/traumatic-stress-vehicle-accidents.asp>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/12/19/506144346/patients-cared-for-by-female-doctors-fare-better-than-those-treated-by-men>

<http://www.nursingdegrees.com/nursing-resources/documentation>

Please feel to contact us for the newsletter's sources, as all information is thoroughly explored and researched.