

INTEGRITY LEGAL NURSE CONSULTING PDX NEWSLETTER
Helping you understand medical issues,
giving you more time to practice law

JULY/AUGUST 2017

- *TRENDS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- *DIFFICULTIES FACING BARIATRIC PATIENT TREATMENT
- *THE REALITIES OF WORKPLACE ABUSE FACED BY NURSES
- *TOP 5 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE U.S.A.



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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**
 - * **DME attendance,**
- * **Locating and vetting expert witnesses,**
 - * **Serving as TE**
 - * **Record retrieval**

UNDERSTANDING TRENDS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES

One Medscape survey found that 59% of physician respondents had been named in a malpractice suit; what do these doctors have in common?

- Obstetricians/gynecologists and surgeons are the physicians most likely to be sued. In a 2015 survey, it was found that 85% of ob/gyns and 83% of general surgeons reported being sued.
- Male doctors are nearly two and a half times more likely to be subjected to medical-related legal action than female doctors.
- The chance of being charged with a malpractice suit increases with age; a Medscape survey found that by age 54, 64% of physicians had experienced at least one malpractice suit, but after age 60, the percentage rises to about 80%.
- The largest percentages of physicians facing lawsuits were in office-based solo practices (70%) or single-specialty groups (64%). In general, physicians who have an ownership interest in a practice are at a greater risk of being sued.
- If a physician has already been sued, their chances of being sued again are increased; the New England Journal of Medicine found that a doctor who had two paid claims was twice as likely to have another as a doctor who only had one.

Our specialized legal nurse consultants are skilled at identifying potential negligence in medical malpractice cases.

DIFFICULTIES FACING BARIATRIC PATIENTS

Over a third of adults in the United States are obese, and yet hospitals are struggling to accommodate them properly

- Emergency medical vehicles and teams are frequently not equipped to handle bariatric patients; ambulances built specially for bariatric patients are few and far between, and EMTs are not properly trained for moving, resuscitating, and managing obese patients.
- Radiology departments are not equipped with CT scanners, MRIs, and other imaging machines that can handle the size and weight of many bariatric patients, which delays diagnosis and treatment and might force doctors to perform exploratory surgery.
- Bariatric patients often have underlying health conditions that increase their risk of complications during and post-surgery.
- Obesity compromises the technical aspects of a surgical procedure, and their surgeries usually take longer, the operating fields are deeper, and the spaces in which an infection can set in are greater.
- In order to address these problems, hospitals need to invest in more bariatric-specific equipment and emergency vehicles, increase bariatric training and how to treat these patients with dignity.

We are experts at explaining best practices, analyzing risks, and detecting inequalities that your clients may be facing.

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 help. Your report was both concise and thorough. The case disposition was a direct result of your report."

[Ron Cox, 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.](#)

"Excellent report and you uncovered important areas I had not considered."

[Robert A. Miller, 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.](#)

"Thank you for your help with this. I needed an unbiased evaluation."

[Sarah Freeman, Esq.](#)

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

[Jim Nelson, Esq.](#)

"You did an excellent job."

[Michael H. Bloom, Esq.](#)

PERCEPTIONS AND REALITIES OF WORKPLACE ABUSE FOR NURSES

A 2014 study found that 75% of nurses say they experienced physical or verbal abuse on the job - why, and how can this be stopped?

- Abuse can be divided into two categories: verbal and physical. Verbal abuse consists of communication via behavior, tone, or words that intend to humiliate, degrade, or disrespect an individual. Physical abuse consists of violent assaults where medical staff members are spit on, slapped, kicked, beaten, shoved, or scratched.
- 80% of serious violent incidents reported in healthcare settings were caused by interactions with patients.
- High-volume urban emergency departments, inpatient and acute psychiatric facilities, and geriatric long-term care settings have the highest risk of on-the-job violence.
- The increase of psychiatric patients seeking treatment in hospital emergency rooms has been on the rise ever since states cut billions of dollars in funding for preventative mental-health services during the 2008 recession. Dropping staff numbers and greater numbers of these unpredictable patients has led to more cases of workplace abuse in hospitals.
- In order to solve these problems, more laws need to be enacted to protect nurses, hospitals need to increase funding and measures to prevent violent encounters, and the culture of accepting abuse as part of the nursing profession needs to be challenged so that nurses have no fear of reporting abuse.

Our nurses are capable of interpreting medical documents and records in order to assist you with clients who have suffered abuse or other injustices.

TOP 5 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE USA

The leading causes of death include both heart and respiratory disease, cancer, accidents and strokes.

1. Heart disease: When there is plaque buildup in the walls of the arteries, they become narrow or blocked. This makes it more difficult to blood to flow, and can lead to chest pain, a heart attack, or a stroke.
2. Cancer: Characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells, cancer comes in many forms. However, lung cancer accounts for the most deaths, followed by colon and rectal cancer, breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, and prostate cancer.
3. Chronic lower respiratory diseases: Largely due to smoking, chronic pulmonary disease makes up the majority of deaths in this category. This disease causes airflow blockage and breathing-related issues.
4. Accidents: Including MVA, accidents make up the largest proportions of accidental deaths, but unintentional drug overdoses are on the rise due to the growing epidemic of heroin and opioid addictions.
5. Stroke: Similar to heart disease, a stroke occurs when blood vessels are blocked, but instead of restricting access to the heart, a stroke occurs when the blood supply to the brain is interrupted or reduced. Every year more than 795,000 people in the U.S. suffer a stroke.

Information is powerful; knowing the leading causes of death can assist you in knowing how to best care for yourself and potentially reducing the overall risk factors.

NEWSLETTER RESOURCES

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