

# Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

## Failure To Properly Treat Surgical Wounds Results In Settlement Of Wrongful Death Case With Nursing Home

*Posted by Jonathan Rosenfeld on October 04, 2010*

The Chicago Tribune [reported](#) on a story involving the \$2 million settlement of a wrongful death lawsuit involving a patient at a Wisconsin nursing home who suffered complications from improperly cared for surgical wounds. The patient identified as Cynthia Wilms, was admitted to [Willows Nursing and Rehabilitation](#) in 2007 following a hip replacement surgery. According to the families attorney, the facilities failure to treat the wounds resulted in her death.

Willows Nursing and Rehabilitation is owned by mega-operator Extencicare.

Below is a graph representing rate for surgical site infections from Brigham Woman's Hospital:

### My Take:

To me, there's no more moving case than the situation where a healthy person enters a skilled nursing facility for short-term rehabilitation only to begin a rapid spiral of deterioration. Nursing homes need to remember that just because a person may be health and / or relatively young, they still must provide the necessary care for the person and follow the physicians order-- including the frequency with which bandages need to be changed.

Facilities need to remember that there really is a reason why the person is at their facility in the first place. In addition to facility acquired infections, bed

Jonathan Rosenfeld represents victims of nursing home abuse and neglect throughout the country. For more information please visit Nursing Homes Abuse Blog ([www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com](http://www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com)), Bed Sore FAQ ([www.bedsorefaq.com](http://www.bedsorefaq.com)) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757.

sores (also known as: pressure sores, pressure ulcers or decubitus ulcers) remain a real threat for short-term rehab patients. Particularly in patients with limited mobility, facilities need to implement pressure sore prevention techniques such as regular turning and cleaning of patients.

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Lawsuit ensues after patient develops decubitus ulcers on back and heels during rehab stint in nursing home Bed Sore FAQ

Guideline\_for\_prevention\_of\_surgical\_site\_infection (PDF) Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, April, 1999