

Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

Failure To Follow Doctor's Orders Results In The Choking Death Of Hospital Patient

Posted at 5:29 AM on February 24, 2010 by Jonathan Rosenfeld

I think most people would be amazed if they became aware of how many injuries and deaths were caused by an employee's failure to follow basic orders.

This time, a hospital employee's failure to follow basic instructions related to a patient's dietary needs has cost another patient their life.

Ignoring doctors orders, an employee at Mayers Memorial Hospital gave a meat and cheese sandwich to an Alzheimer's patient who was unable to eat solid food. Left unattended with the sandwich, the patient literally 'inhaled' the sandwich. Five days later, the patient died from pneumonia caused by inhaling food.

According to California Department of Public Health Director, Dr. Mark Horton, "The facility failed to protect the health of a patient when the prescribed diet ordered by the physician and in the patient's care plan was not followed. As a result, the patient died."

The California Department of Public Health issued a AA citation and a \$50,000 fine to the hospital following its investigation.

Read more about this choking incident [here](#).

Pneumonia from inhaling food?

Yes. Many nursing home and hospital patients develop 'aspiration pneumonia' when food or foreign materials enter the bronchial tree (lungs). Aspiration pneumonia may result after oral or gastric contents (including food, saliva, or nasal secretions) are inhaled. Depending on the acidity of the materials inhaled, a chemical pneumonitis can develop, and bacteria may add to the inflammation.

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), Bed Sore FAQ (www.bedsorefaq.com) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757.

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