

Judicial Precedents Concerning Falls in Hospitals

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Abstract : Falls by inpatients in hospitals are a major issue in terms of medical safety. We have studied the judicial precedents concerning falls in hospitals using the database of previous judicial cases. A total of 8 cases were extracted (2000–2009), of which 4 of the institutions were found to be guilty and 4 were not. Two cases out of the 4 guilty cases denied any relationship between the cause and effect on the deaths of inpatients, while the other 2 cases resulted in a reduction of the compensation that was awarded to the affected families due to claims of negligence on the part of the patients.

Key words : Medical adverse event, Inpatient, Fall, Medical malpractice litigation, Judicial precedent