

## INTEGRITY LEGAL NURSE CONSULTING PDX NEWSLETTER

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

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

\*THE LINK BETWEEN PATIENT SATISFACTION AND MORTALITY

\*THE EFFECTS OF YOUNG BRAIN TRAUMA LATER IN LIFE

\*RESOURCE

\*MEDICATION ERRORS - WHY THEY HAPPEN AND WHO THEY AFFECT

\*TOP 10 REASONS PHYSICIANS GET SUED

\*SUGAR INDUSTRY SHIFTS BLAME TO FAT



**WENDY VOTROUBEK,  
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Legal Nurse Consultant**

**Clinically active author of  
three nursing textbooks**

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legalnursepdx.com**

#### **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**

### **THE LINK BETWEEN PATIENT SATISFACTION AND MORTALITY**

*Recent studies show that patients with higher satisfaction rates receive worse care and are at a higher risk of death*

- Hospitals are rewarded by government funding and physicians receive incentive compensation for higher patient satisfaction rates.
- The emphasis on satisfaction leads physicians to cater to patients' wants rather than their needs.
- When a patient requests an unnecessary or potentially dangerous test or treatment, it is often carried out without mention of side-effects.
- Because there is the sensation that "something is being done," satisfied patients end up with 9% higher drug expenses than less-satisfied patients.
- Satisfied patients are 12% more likely to be admitted to a hospital and 26% more likely to die before their less-satisfied counterparts.
- Satisfaction is not synonymous with quality care; hospitals need to do more than improve "experience".

*We are skilled at analyzing medical records and detecting deviation from best practice.*

### **THE EFFECTS OF YOUNG BRAIN TRAUMA LATER IN LIFE**

*Traumatic brain injuries suffered before age 25 are found to increase chances of psychiatric problems and premature mortality*

- 1.7 million Americans suffer a traumatic brain injury every year.
- TBI is consistently linked to premature death, hospitalization, and lower education attainment.
- Recently, individuals who suffered only mild head injuries when young were proven to consistently have problems functioning as adults and be at risk for early death.
- Brain injuries suffered by children can trigger or exacerbate symptoms of psychiatric illness, increasing the individual's risk of suicide and hospitalization when older.
- Because falling is the most common form of TBI in young children, improving parent supervision is important.

*Our nurses are capable of categorizing and reviewing medical records for traumatic brain injuries and other personal injuries.*

#### **RESOURCE**

For website update, redo or hosting

*Ketello - Joshua Schall - vice president and systems architect  
josh@ketello.com*

Great communication skills, easy to work with and excellently priced work.

## 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.](#)*

## MEDICATION ERRORS -

### WHY THEY HAPPEN AND WHO THEY AFFECT

*From simple mistakes come serious consequences in medicine, often affecting the youngest, oldest, and most vulnerable patients*

- Medication errors occur approximately 1 million times each year and result in 7,000 deaths in America annually.
- Medication errors include adverse reactions, overdoses, wrong medication, and switched prescriptions.
- Labeling and ordering mistakes include misinterpreted handwriting, mislabeling, switched labels, and drug name confusion.
- Other causes of medication errors include poor communication, lack of employee knowledge, fatigue of staff, and lack of patient understanding of drug's directions.
- Drugs most prone to errors include insulin, sedatives, and opioids.
- The time-sensitive nature of operations don't allow for double-and triple-checking of medications, leading to a greater likelihood of medication errors for surgery patients.
- Geriatric and pediatric patients are particularly vulnerable to medication errors as well, due to the adverse effects that can be seen in both populations.

*We are adept in determining best practice regarding medication administration in both acute care hospital, LTC and assisted living facilities.*

### TOP 10 REASONS PHYSICIANS GET SUED

*Communication, thorough work, and attention to detail are key in the medical field*

1. Failing to listen, communicate empathetically, and spend adequate time with patients
2. Keeping incomplete documentation
3. Failing to establish standards of conduct for office staff
4. Being inaccessible to patients
5. Failing to order and follow up on tests in a timely manner
6. Failing to refer, track referrals, or communicate with referring physician
7. Prescribing medication inappropriately
8. Providing improper care during emergency situations
9. Failing to obtain informed consent
10. Allowing non-compliant patients to take charge

*Our nurses are skilled at sorting out risk factors and advising you on how best to avoid and counter physician missteps.*

### SUGAR INDUSTRY SHIFTS BLAME TO FAT

*Research published this month suggest that the past 5 decades of nutrition research has been shaped by the sugar industry*

- In the 1960's, the sugar industry paid scientists to emphasize saturated fat as the culprit of heart disease.
- The head of nutrition in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, D. Mark Hegsted, was one of the scientists paid by the sugar industry. He helped draft the federal government's dietary guidelines in 1977.
- Heart disease research and today's dietary recommendations are influenced by this funding.
- Coca-Cola, the world's largest producer of sugary beverages, has provided millions of dollars to fund researchers to downplay sugar's role in obesity.

### NEWSLETTER RESOURCES

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

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W. Wallace Ogdahl, Esq.*

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

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