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Levin & Perconti Files Negligence Lawsuit against Advocate Trinity Hospital

CHICAGO, October 27, 2008 – In the wake of recent changes to Medicare’s reimbursement policy on hospital-borne pressure ulcers, attorney Steven M. Levin filed a negligence lawsuit on Friday in the Circuit Court of Cook County against Advocate Trinity Hospital in Chicago. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Saletha Baker of Chicago for the injuries her husband Percy suffered while under Advocate Trinity’s care.

Percy Baker was admitted to Advocate Trinity Hospital on October 31, 2006 for treatment. He remained in the hospital for eleven days before he was transferred to a nursing home for sub-acute care. Upon entering the nursing home, the staff discovered a Stage IV pressure ulcer (bed sore) on his sacrum that was not diagnosed during his stay at Advocate Trinity. The nursing home treated the pressure ulcer, but it never fully healed, and Percy’s overall clinical condition deteriorated as a result of his brief stay at Advocate Trinity.

For a year and a half after the pressure ulcer developed at Advocate Trinity, Percy Baker lived in a state of poor health. He spent time in nursing homes but his wife eventually made the selfless decision to care for him in their home in order to provide the constant care he required. Despite the continuous attention that he received at home, Percy was never able to recover and he died on March 27, 2008.

“Mr. Baker’s case is an unfortunate example of the devastating effects that pressure ulcers can have on a person. Mr. Baker went into the hospital for treatment, only to succumb to months of pain and suffering as a result of the pressure ulcer he developed at Trinity,” said Steven Levin, the Baker family’s attorney. “Hopefully, with the new Medicare policies in place, hospitals will be motivated to prevent pressure ulcers from happening and we will see fewer cases like Mr. Baker’s.”

Mr. Baker’s lawsuit comes less than one month after Medicare policy changed to no longer reimburse hospitals for “never events,” or medical complications deemed avoidable. Examples of “never events”

include pressure ulcers, falls, burns and other hospital-acquired injuries that commonly occur while a patient is in a hospital. Pressure ulcers are among the most prevalent and costly never-events that occur in hospitals and this policy change will force hospitals to take better preventative measures.

Levin & Perconti is a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death litigation. The lawyers at Levin & Perconti are committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others. Please contact the firm at (312) 332-2872 or visit www.levinperconti.com for more information.

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