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Levin & Perconti
325 North LaSalle Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60654
312.332.2872
jenna@levinperconti.com



Former Resident Files Lawsuit Against Alden Northmoor

Facility failed to prevent resident from swallowing surgical gloves on two separate occasions

CHICAGO, August 3, 2009 – Last week, attorneys Steven M. Levin and Margaret P. Battersby of Levin & Perconti filed a nursing home negligence case in the Circuit Court of Cook County against Alden Northmoor Rehabilitation and Care Center in Chicago. The complaint was filed on behalf of 77-year-old Mary Clifton of Chicago for the injuries she suffered while she was a resident at the nursing home. During a four month period, nursing home staff failed to properly monitor Mary and she swallowed a surgical glove on two separate occasions. As a result of swallowing these gloves, Mary underwent two small bowel resections, enduring pain and suffering. These surgeries took a toll on Mary’s physical condition and she is now immobile and can no longer retain nutrients as a result of the nursing home’s failure to supervise her.

Mary was admitted to Alden Northmoor in October 2007 with a diagnosis of dementia. When she was admitted, nursing home staff noted her to be at risk for wandering and odd behaviors due to her dementia. On April 29, 2008, Mary was allowed to swallow a surgical glove at Alden Northmoor when she was not being properly monitored. She was transferred to a local hospital where she underwent a small bowel resection.

Upon returning to Alden Northmoor, the nursing home staff failed to appropriately develop a care plan to address Mary’s propensity for putting foreign objects into her mouth, despite knowing that Mary had engaged in this behavior in the past. On July 10, 2008, Mary again swallowed a surgical glove and had to undergo a second small bowel resection surgery to remove the foreign object. Following this surgery, Mary’s family relocated her to another nursing home. As a result of the injuries she sustained due to Alden’s negligence, Mary experienced decreased mobility and is at risk for further digestive problems including, but not limited to, a decreased ability to digest nutrients. Mary is also at increased risk for dehydration.

“After her first surgery, Alden Northmoor should have created a specific care plan to address her odd behaviors, such as wandering and putting foreign object into her mouth,” said Steve Levin. “Despite the known risk that Mary had put foreign objects in her mouth on another occasion, the nursing home failed to address this behavior or properly monitor Mary and as a result, she had to undergo a second surgery. These surgeries took a serious toll on Mary’s overall condition and now she is immobile and faces an increased risk of future medical complications with her digestive system.”

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