

Spring 2005

A Complimentary Publication

## Increase Your Settlements with Pain and Suffering Reports

Pain & Suffering Reports which summarize medical records is a strategic tool that should not be overlooked by the attorney. It can be used in a settlement notebook and, if necessary, presented at trial by the person writing the report. Legal Nurse Consultants are ideal candidates to prepare this type of report because as nurses they are involved in assessing and relieving pain as part of their daily practice.

This type of report may be helpful in the following cases:

- ☛ the client has suffered serious physical injuries as a result of accident or medical malpractice
- ☛ the medical records detail the pain and suffering
  - ☛ the client is no longer living, has suffered brain damage or otherwise unable to describe the pain and suffering that accompanied the injury.



The typical pain and suffering report includes either a chart or narrative summary of the client's pertinent medical records with detailed descriptions of all painful procedures, course of treatment, complications and problems they experienced. Quotes from the medical records

that support the pain and suffering are used as much as possible. Various other charts may also be helpful to use as exhibits such as a chart of procedures and complications or a summary of pain medication received that can be put into terms that a lay person can understand.

This type of report is prepared by reviewing the medical records, depositions, work and/or school records, interviewing the client, family or friends and using any other information the client may have kept after their injuries, like a diary. The length of this report will vary depending on the volume of medical records and the

injuries sustained.

After the report is completed, you may want your legal nurse consultant to function as a fact witness and present your client's pain and suffering to the jury. Contact us for more information on expert fact witnessing. ♦

## Favorite Resources

**N**ational Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) is a public resource for evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. NGC is sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (formerly the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research) in partnership with the American Medical Association and the American Association of Health Plans.

The site has hundreds of guidelines, is updated weekly and is searchable by keywords, disease/condition, treatment/interventions or organizations. For example a simple search for "thrombolytics" a class of medications called "clot busters" used to treat heart attacks and strokes, produced 19 guidelines. The most applicable to the information I was looking for was a guideline titled "Sixth ACCP Consensus Conference on Antithrombotic Therapy". This guideline includes recommendations for use of different anticoagulants in prevention and treatment of heart attacks, ischemic strokes, atrial fibrillation, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolus, valvular heart disease, endocarditis, prosthetic heart valves and other diseases. To search the site yourself, go to [www.guideline.gov](http://www.guideline.gov). ♦

**C**enter for Disease Control & Prevention should be the starting place whenever you want to know more about infectious diseases. If your medical litigation includes an infectious disease or epidemiologic component, this site can be a wealth of information. It's rules and regulations form the standard of care. To research the CDC's holdings go to [www.cdc.gov/search.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/search.htm). ♦

## COMPLETE MEDICAL RECORDS

To facilitate more cost effective reviews, it is helpful to always send a complete and organized set of medical records to your consultants and experts. All hospital medical records should include the following:

- ✓ History and Physical
- ✓ Physician Order Sheets
- ✓ Physician Progress Notes
- ✓ Laboratory and Diagnostic Studies/Special Reports
- ✓ Surgical Reports
- ✓ Discharge Summary or Death Summary
- ✓ Nurses Notes/Flowsheets
- ✓ Graphic Sheet, Vital Signs and Intake and Output Sheets
- ✓ Medication Administration Records
- ✓ Consultation Reports
- ✓ Informed Consent Documents
- ✓ Records of Donation and Receipt of Transplant or Implants
- ✓ Discharge Instructions to the patient or family
- ✓ Death Certificate and Autopsy Results, if the patient died ♦

### Quote of the Month

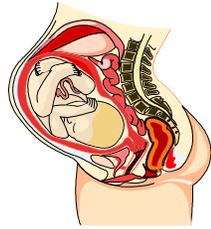
“Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.”  
~ Robert Kennedy



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## New Fetal Monitor Presentation Software

If you handle catastrophically injured infant cases or any case where presentation of the evidence within the fetal monitor strip is the cornerstone of your case, you owe it to yourself and your client to learn more about DigiStrip™.



DigiStrip™ is a digital copy of your client's fetal monitor strip. It can be customized for your case by adding: drop-down menus for definitions, supporting documentation or textbook overlays for immediate comparison, highlighting/symbols, a ten-minute overlay, block out screen to focus attention on a certain part of the strip, timer/stopwatch, video depositions, Day-in-the-Life videos, library animations and custom animations. The library animations include: fetal monitor strip tutorial, fetal blood circulation, fetal stations, fetal heart rate, normal metabolism, APGAR scoring and fetal brain/heart relationship. These options can be better explained through their demo CD. For a demo CD, color brochure and costs, contact High Impact Graphics at 800-749-2184 or [brice@fmrimpact.com](mailto:brice@fmrimpact.com). ♦