

CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT OF \$850,000.00
Medical Malpractice; Failure to Diagnose Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

In this medical malpractice case, *Estate of John Doe, et al v. Unnamed Hospital*, which was filed in the Superior Court, the parties reached an agreement to settle for \$850,000.00 during jury selection.

The plaintiffs' decedent, a 71 years old retired male, presented to the defendant internist at an urgent care clinic operated by the defendant hospital seeking emergency medical treatment for severe left back, flank and left lower quadrant pain. At that time, the plaintiffs' decedent informed the defendants that the pain began suddenly and that he had not experienced any fall, trauma, gross hematuria, nausea or vomiting. Thereafter, the defendant doctor diagnosed the plaintiffs' decedent with a kidney stone, prescribed Vicodin to him, and released him from his care. In releasing the plaintiffs' decedent, the only instructions he was given was to increase his fluid intake.

Four hours later, after the plaintiffs' decedent returned to his home, he collapsed in the presence of his wife, who then called 911. The plaintiffs' decedent was administered CPR by emergency technicians that arrived on the scene and he was taken by ambulance to the hospital in full cardiac arrest. Shortly thereafter, he was pronounced dead in the emergency department at the defendant hospital. The autopsy revealed that the plaintiffs' decedent died from rupture of an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

The experts retained by the plaintiffs all agreed that the defendants deviated from the standard of care by failing to adequately evaluate, diagnose, and treat the plaintiffs' decedent when he first arrived in the urgent care clinic. These opinions were supported by the defendant doctor's failure to order the appropriate diagnostic tests, which were readily available and necessary given the age, history, and symptoms that the plaintiffs' decedent presented with. Furthermore, the plaintiffs' experts agreed that had a proper diagnosis been made when the plaintiffs' decedent first arrived at the urgent care clinic, and had he undergone proper treatment, including surgical repair of his aneurysm, then he would have survived and lived his full and normal life expectancy.

On April 16, 2008, the first day of jury selection, the parties agreed to settle the case for \$850,000.00.

Submitted by Robert I. Reardon, Jr., Esq. of The Reardon Law Firm, P.C., of New London, Connecticut.