

## Litigation Associated with Extravasation

**Lorie A. Brown, R.N., M.N., J.D.**

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Allegation	Percentage of closed claims	Total paid indemnity	Average paid indemnity
Wrong medication	18.4%	\$2,119,400	\$151,386
Failure to immediately report/record improper administration of medication	2.6%	\$276,000	\$138,000
Wrong dose	26.3%	\$2,738,580	\$136,929
Wrong patient	2.6%	\$217,500	\$108,750
Improper technique	19.7%	\$1,579,350	\$105,290
Wrong/delayed time	1.3%	\$100,000	\$100,000
Wrong rate of flow	2.6%	\$200,000	\$100,000
Failure to properly monitor and maintain infusion site	13.2%	\$960,000	\$96,000
Wrong route	2.6%	\$175,000	\$87,500
Wrong information provided or recorded	1.3%	\$35,000	\$35,000
Failure to notify patient's practitioner	2.6%	\$67,500	\$33,750
Failure to resolve medication question with pharmacist and/or practitioner prior to administration	1.3%	\$25,000	\$25,000
Failure to recognize contraindication and/or known adverse interaction between/among ordered medications	5.3%	\$100,000	\$25,000
<b>Overall</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$8,593,330</b>	<b>\$113,070</b>

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RN		LPN/LVN	
Wrong Dose	3.0%	Wrong medication	5.6%
Improper technique	2.4%	Wrong route	3.6%
IV administration	1.8%	Missed dose	2.4%
Missed dose	1.5%	IV administration	1.8%
Wrong medication	1.5%	Failure to notify patient's physician	1.8%
Wrong/incorrect information provided or recorded	1.4%	Improper technique	1.8%
Failure to document medication administration	1.4%	Wrong/incorrect information provided or recorded	1.8%
All other	6.7%	Wrong patient	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	Wrong time	1.2%
		Failure to immediately report/record improper administration of medication	1.2%
		Failure to document medication administration	1.2%
		All other	1.8%
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25.4%</b>

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➤ Extravasation injury is defined as the damage caused by the efflux of solutions from a vessel into surrounding tissue spaces during intravenous infusion. The damage can extend to involve nerves, tendons, and joints and can continue for months after the initial insult. If treatment is delayed, surgical debridement, skin grafting, and even amputation may be the unfortunate consequences of such an injury.

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- “Infiltration” is the inadvertent leakage of a **nonvesicant** solution into tissue.

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- “Extravasation” is the inadvertent leakage of a **vesicant** solution into tissue

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- “Vesicant” is defined as any medication or fluid capable of causing injury such as necrosis or tissue damage when it escapes from the vein. Qualities of solutions associated with tissue injury include pH, osmolarity, vasoactivity and cytotoxicity.

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### THEORIES OF LIABILITY

- -Respondeat Superior (agency)
- -Vicarious Liability
- -Borrowed Servant
- -Captain of the ship
- -Improper supervision
- -Improper credentialing
- -Practicing beyond level of expertise

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### What is Malpractice?

- Duty -(what those acting under same or similar circumstances would have done)
  - ❖ Is it the same as physicians?
- Breach
- Causation
- Harm

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## SHOULD A NURSE HAVE HER OWN INSURANCE?



- ❖ Right to attorney
- ❖ Ensures coverage if you leave your employment (claims made)
- ❖ Access to risk management experts through carrier
- ❖ Disciplinary defense coverage
- ❖ Punitive damages are not covered

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## Risk Management



- Friends don't sue friends      Respond promptly
- Good Communication      Know your limits and **ask for help**
- Written Information      Good Documentation
- Informed Consent      Good Representation

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- **210,000 Patients Die Unnecessarily From Medical Errors in Hospitals Each Year**

<http://www.propublica.org/article/how-many-die-from-medical-mistakes-in-us-hospitals>

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**Alone, unsupported, no one to turn to**

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- **G** GIVING
- **I** INTEGRITY
- **F** FOCUS AND FOLLOW THROUGH
- **T** TRUST
- **S** SOURCE

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WHATEVER IT TAKES

**EXCUSES**

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How Many f's are there?

**FINISHED FILES ARE THE  
RESULT OF YEARS  
OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY  
COMBINED WITH  
THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.**

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I  
LOVE  
PARIS IN THE  
THE SPRINGTIME

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**CASE STUDY: AMBER'S STORY**



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**Case study: Bonnie's story** INS 2015 



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**PREVENTION OF INFUSION INJURIES** INS 2015 

- Know the facility's policies and procedures regarding IV therapy  
Educate the patient on signs and symptoms of infiltration/extravasation
- Consider carefully the appropriateness of the IV site and method of administration
- Monitor the IV therapy  
Document

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- The INS requires health care facilities to have policies and procedures addressing IV therapy. Serious injuries as a result of extravasations (e.g. loss of limb or function) may require a sentinel event report. Early consultation with Risk Management is very helpful in any case in which injury to a patient is a potential concern.

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- **T**RUST
- **S**OURCE



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## PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE!!



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## CASE STUDY: YOUR STORY



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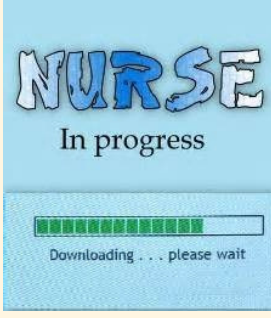
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# Nursing Practice



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