



# Claim Case Studies for Elder Care Facilities

## Keep You Staff and Clients Safe

Every healthcare professional, from EMTs to RPNs, must know how to transfer patients properly. To them, it's a basic work skill; moving patients from a chair to a stretcher, or a bed to a wheelchair. However, if done incorrectly, it can result in painful injuries to both the worker and the patient.

An RPN responded to a call from a patient who wanted to get out of bed to use the bathroom. She knew the resident well and had helped him many times before. She was the only nurse assigned to the wing and was busy trying to make her morning rounds. She decided to assist the patient on her own, even though the protocol stated two nurses should lift the patient due to his weight and medical condition. While helping the patient up, his foot caught on the call-bell cord. The patient fell to the ground and fractured his hip. He was taken to the hospital for surgery. The nurse suffered a debilitating back injury from trying to support the patient as he fell. She was off work for four months.

## Medical Malpractice Liability – Is it Part of Your Insurance Coverage?

Medical malpractice insurance is an essential requirement for all healthcare practitioners. Since not all healthcare workers are doctors, they don't think much about it, but they should. The incident below illustrates how medical malpractice liability can come in various forms.

It was a typical, busy day at the nursing home. A doctor gave a verbal order for a nurse to administer 0.5 mg morphine to a patient for pain. The nurse wrote ".5 mg" in the patient's chart. The secretary then transcribed the order into the medication profile as 5 mg morphine. The "." got lost in the shuffle and the patient was given 5 mg of morphine instead of 0.5 mg. That is ten times the prescribed dosage. The patient became confused and suffered from shallow breathing and a weak pulse. Luckily, the symptoms were recognized and the overdose was corrected before the patient's heart stopped completely.

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