

1 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2 OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

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4 NADIRAH D. MALIK, etc.,

5 Plaintiff,

6 vs

Case No. 443949
Judge Russo

7 MERIDIA HEALTH SYSTEMS,
8 et al.,

9 Defendants.

10 - - - - -

11 DEPOSITION OF DANIELLE COATES, R.N.

12 FRIDAY MAY 31, 2002

13 - - - - -

14 Deposition of DANIELLE COATES, R.N., a
15 Witness herein, called by counsel on behalf of
16 the Plaintiff for examination under the statute,
17 taken before me, Vivian L. Gordon, a Registered
18 Diplomate Reporter and Notary Public in and for
19 the State of Ohio, pursuant to agreement of
20 counsel, at the offices of Huron Road Hospital,
21 13951 Terrace Road, East Cleveland, Ohio,
22 commencing at 12:00 noon on the day and date
23 above set forth.

24

25

COANNEY
10/24/02

1 APPEARANCES:

2

On behalf of the Plaintiff

3

Becker & Mishkind

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On behalf of the Defendant Meridia Health
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On behalf of the Defendant D'Hue

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On behalf of the Defendant Dickerson

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1 DANIELLE COATES, R.N., a witness herein,
2 called for examination, as provided by the Ohio
3 Rules of Civil Procedure, being by me first duly
4 sworn, as hereinafter certified, was deposed and
5 said as follows:

6 EXAMINATION OF DANIELLE COATES, R.N.

7 BY MR. MISHKIND:

8 Q. State your name.

9 A. Danielle Coates.

10 Q. Where do you live, Danielle?

11 A. In Highland Heights.

12 Q. Your address?

13 A. 765 Radford Drive.

14 Q. You are an RN?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you work here at Huron?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 Q. How long have you worked here?

19 A. Since August of '99.

20 Q. Do you remember Mr. Edwards?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Had you any contact with Mr. Edwards
23 prior to his admission for the surgery that was
24 the subject of this lawsuit?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Did you have any contact with
2 Mr. Edwards' family after his death?

3 A. No.

4 Q. What type of degree do you have?

5 A. I have an associates of science and
6 I'm a registered nurse.

7 Q. Where did you get your associates
8 degree from?

9 A. Tri-C, Cuyahoga Community College.

10 Q. What year?

11 A. '99.

12 Q. So you had been an RN about five
13 months at the time that Mr. Edwards was a
14 patient; true?

15 A. Uh-huh, yes.

16 Q. Try to avoid the --

17 A. Sorry.

18 Q. Not a problem. I take it you have
19 never had your deposition taken before?

20 A. No.

21 Q. I will try to help you through. If
22 you are answering in a slang manner, I will let
23 you know to say yes or no, okay?

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Were you still in an orientation

1 phase of your training or were you working
2 beyond that in January of 2000?

3 A. I was on my own. I wasn't in
4 orientation anymore.

5 Q. Have you maintained any personal
6 notes concerning Mr. Edwards, anything that you
7 remember from your involvement in his care?

8 A. No.

9 Q. When I say personal notes, something
10 other than what's in the hospital record.

11 A. No.

12 Q. You very quickly told me that you
13 remember Mr. Edwards. Tell me what stands out
14 in your mind about Mr. Edwards.

15 A. Well, I took care of him before he
16 went to surgery the night before he was having
17 it, and then I took him as a transfer from the
18 ICU after his surgery.

19 Q. Do you remember talking with
20 Mr. Edwards the night before he went for his
21 surgery?

22 A. Yes. It was casual conversation.
23 Just it wasn't anything in particular about the
24 surgery.

25 Q. Do you remember meeting his daughter

1 the night before the surgery?

2 A. I don't remember meeting his
3 daughter, no.

4 Q. Do you remember meeting anyone that
5 was there, either a family member or a friend?

6 A. I believe I met his wife.

7 Q. Or his significant other?

8 A. Right. Sorry.

9 Q. That's not a problem. You met a
10 woman that you understood to be his companion.
11 How is that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. A nice woman?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you remember Mr. Edwards being a
16 nice man?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. He was nervous about the surgery?

19 A. I think so.

20 Q. But anxious to get it done with?

21 A. I don't recall exactly.

22 Q. Were you present at all when
23 Dr. D'Hue talked to Mr. Edwards prior to his
24 surgery?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Do you remember anything else, either
2 specific to that evening prior to the surgery,
3 or in general prior to the surgery, in terms of
4 conversation that you had with Mr. Edwards or
5 his significant other?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you see him during the immediate
8 post-op period?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What shift did you work?

11 A. On the floor or that day?

12 Q. The evening before his surgery.

13 A. I believe that I worked 3:00 to
14 11:00.

15 Q. You did not see him after the surgery
16 on the day of surgery?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You then saw him when he was
19 transferred from the ICU to telemetry?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now, the evening before his surgery,
22 what floor was he on at that time?

23 A. He was on the 6th floor.

24 Q. Was that telemetry?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You have reviewed the hospital
2 record?

3 A. His chart?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I want to ask you some questions
7 about entries that you made in the chart. I'm
8 trying to understand a few things that have not
9 already been explained to me during the course
10 of the previous depositions. Feel free to use
11 the chart when I ask you those questions.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. I am looking at the nurse's notes on
14 January 28th, and I see a note dated or timed
15 11:15 a.m.

16 A. January 28th? Okay.

17 Q. It's actually in the supplemental
18 nurse's notes.

19 MS. REID: Right there.

20 A. Okay, I see it.

21 Q. 11:15. Would that be the first note
22 that you wrote after he was transferred from the
23 ICU?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you remember receiving

1 Mr. Edwards?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Without looking at the note, do you
4 remember receiving him?

5 A. Yes, I do.

6 Q. Tell me what you remember about
7 Mr. Edwards when he came over from the ICU.

8 A. Okay. I hooked him up to his
9 telemetry monitor and did my assessment. I
10 believe his significant other was there. I had
11 him sitting up in a chair. Dr. D'Hue came and
12 he wanted certain things in the room. He wanted
13 two suction and a flashlight. And we had to
14 doppler his subclavian pulse, and I think that's
15 it.

16 Q. Was Mr. Edwards alert and oriented?

17 A. Yes. On transfer?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Yes, he was.

20 Q. Did you engage him in any
21 conversation?

22 A. I remember him writing. He had one
23 of those --

24 Q. Etch-a-sketches?

25 A. Yes, something like that. You tear

1 the page off and it erases it. He was
2 communicating well.

3 Q. His spirit seemed to be good?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The significant other, was she there
6 throughout your shift?

7 A. She was. I can't remember exactly
8 what time, but I remember talking to her a few
9 times from like noon to 3:00 when I was there.

10 Q. Sherry Edwards took over for you at
11 3:00; correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you remember giving report to
14 Sherry?

15 A. Vaguely.

16 Q. Was it recorded or was it a verbal
17 report?

18 A. Face-to-face.

19 Q. Under what circumstances is report
20 given verbal and under what circumstances is it
21 given recorded?

22 A. Well, we usually tape-record report,
23 but for some reason that day I think maybe -- I
24 don't know. Sometimes in general practice, if
25 the other nurse is there early, or if you are

1 maybe running behind, you would just give them a
2 face-to-face report.

3 Q. Do you know whether during your
4 shift, which I presume would have been 7:00 to
5 3:00 --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- on the 28th, whether or not you
8 were shorthanded with regard to nurses on the
9 telemetry unit?

10 MS. REID: Objection.

11 A. I can't remember.

12 Q. Do you remember whether at the time
13 that you left and Sherry Edwards took over at
14 3:00 p.m. for the 3:00 to 11:00 shift, whether
15 or not there was a shortage of nurses on the
16 telemetry floor at that time?

17 MS. REID: Objection. You can
18 answer.

19 A. I do not recall any, no.

20 Q. Do you know what time Dr. D'Hue was
21 in to see Mr. Edwards after he was transferred
22 to the telemetry unit?

23 A. Approximately?

24 Q. Sure.

25 A. Like noon, 1:00 o'clock.

1 Q. Do you have any recollection of
2 seeing Dr. D'Hue after the 12:00 to 1:00 o'clock
3 period during the balance of your shift?

4 A. I don't recall.

5 Q. The last note that you wrote in the
6 nurse's notes was at 3:00 p.m., 1500; is that
7 correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. The next note, which is at 5:00 p.m.,
10 is that Sherry Edwards?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you follow up at all that
13 afternoon on the status of the transfusion order
14 that had been entered into the computer at about
15 12:15 when Mr. Edwards had been transferred to
16 the telemetry unit?

17 A. I saw the order number next to it,
18 and waiting for the lab to come up and draw.

19 Q. During your entire shift from the
20 time that you first saw him and made your note
21 at 11:15 up until 3:00 p.m., did the lab come up
22 to draw the blood?

23 A. I don't recall if they did.

24 Q. If they did, is it likely that you
25 would have recorded that in the nurse's notes?

1 A. Not necessarily.

2 Q. Do you have any evidence that would
3 suggest that the lab did come up to draw the
4 blood during your shift?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Let's assume the lab did not come up
7 during the shift. Do you have any recollection
8 of calling down to the lab at any time during
9 your shift to find out why they hadn't been up
10 to draw blood when there was a transfusion order
11 that had been entered into the computer?

12 A. No, I do not recall.

13 Q. Anything preventing you from calling
14 down to check on the status of where the lab was
15 in terms of coming up to check on the blood?

16 A. Well, sometimes it takes the lab, you
17 know, a few hours or a couple hours to come up
18 and get everything started.

19 Q. And I'm not suggesting that they just
20 jump right in as soon as the order is put in,
21 but was there anything preventing you from the
22 time that you received Mr. Edwards and the order
23 was into the computer, up until 3:00 p.m. when
24 you made your last note, is there anything
25 preventing you from checking with the lab over

1 those three hours or so as to when they were
2 planning on coming up to draw the blood?

3 A. Well, the patient care and being that
4 it was ordered at 12:15 and the time frame, I
5 could have been in another patient's room and
6 not seen lab come up, so I was basically waiting
7 for the blood bank to call.

8 Q. Is that the step that takes place
9 next, the blood bank calls?

10 A. And says that the blood is ready.

11 Q. But first, the lab comes up and does
12 the type and screen; correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. When you left at 3:00 o'clock, you
15 had no knowledge that the lab had been up and
16 typed and screened the patient; true?

17 A. No.

18 Q. If you were concerned about where the
19 lab was and why they hadn't been up to check on
20 this order, you have the right, do you not, to
21 call down to the lab and say, hey, guys, we have
22 this order, when are you going to be up to type
23 and screen the patient?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you have done that in the past,

1 have you not?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know of anything in this case
4 that prevented you from checking with the lab,
5 specifically in this case, that prevented you
6 from checking with the lab prior to the end of
7 your shift at 3:00 p.m.?

8 A. No.

9 Q. When you gave report to Sherry, do
10 you remember what your report consisted of?

11 A. Not everything. I vaguely remember a
12 few things with Dr. D'Hue coming in and wanting
13 us to do a certain assessment on him.

14 Q. What was the assessment?

15 A. To inspect his palate, make sure it
16 was pink and moist and the sutures were intact,
17 and that he had the flashlight, and to doppler
18 his pulse and two sets of suction were set up in
19 his room. Other than that, we just go through a
20 head to toe assessment.

21 Q. Your last note was patient was out of
22 bed in the chair with minimal assist; correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And would the minimal assist be you?

25 A. Just monitoring him.

1 Q. So he was able to ambulate on his
2 own?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You just were very close by in the
5 event that he needed an arm or a shoulder to
6 reach out for?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you remember seeing him get out of
9 bed and go to the chair, or are you relying on
10 your note for that?

11 A. No, I remember.

12 Q. Was the significant other there at
13 about that time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Tell me what you remember providing
16 to Sherry Edwards in your report when she came
17 on to relieve you.

18 MS. REID: She just told you, didn't
19 she?

20 Q. You said some basics in terms of what
21 Dr. D'Hue wanted done.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is that all that you remember?

24 A. Yes, just our basic report.

25 Q. Did you bring to her attention the

1 fact that the patient had a transfusion order
2 that was outstanding and had not been, at least
3 at that point, had not been implemented?

4 A. I don't recall, but we go through the
5 orders in general practice.

6 Q. Is it fair to say that following
7 normal practice, that's something that you would
8 have gone over with the nurse that's relieving
9 you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So that she would know what's been
12 done and what's waiting to be done?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So that then she would assume the
15 responsibility for following up on outstanding
16 orders?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, there is a telemetry strip at
19 11:24 a.m. in Mr. Edwards' chart, and I think
20 your signature as the nurse is recorded there.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. This would be the first strip that
23 would be recorded upon his transfer from ICU to
24 telemetry; true?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How frequently were telemetry strips
2 to be recorded in patient charts per shift?

3 A. Once a shift.

4 Q. So your 11:24 complied with what you
5 were required to do to provide reasonable
6 nursing care, at least as it relates to the
7 telemetry; correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Then the 3:00 to 11:00 shift, there
10 should be at least one telemetry strip during
11 that shift; true?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you know of any, from looking at
14 the chart, of any telemetry strips during the
15 3:00 to 11:00 shift?

16 A. Well, I don't see any.

17 Q. Do you personally know of any reason
18 in this case why a telemetry strip was not
19 placed in Mr. Edwards' chart during the 3:00 to
20 11:00 shift?

21 A. I don't know. I wasn't working that
22 shift.

23 Q. Do you know why or has anyone advised
24 you in terms of caregivers, why between the
25 11:00 p.m. shift and the time that Mr. Edwards

1 was found in his room, why there wasn't a
2 telemetry strip for that shift?

3 A. No, I wasn't there.

4 Q. There is a flowsheet that you
5 maintain in the telemetry unit for various
6 findings with regard to the patient's
7 well-being; true?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If you could get the 24 hour patient
10 care flowsheet.

11 MS. REID: For what date?

12 MR. MISHKIND: The 28th.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. On the 28th, I'm looking specifically
15 in the area under cardiovascular.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Are any of the entries on the
18 flowsheet for cardiovascular on the 24th during
19 your shift?

20 A. I'm sorry, for -- can you repeat that
21 question?

22 Q. Sure. Any of the entries on the
23 flowsheet for respiratory or cardiovascular, are
24 any of those entries made by you?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Which one or ones? Which time
2 period, I should say?

3 A. The one at 11:00 a.m.

4 Q. And what's the requirement in terms
5 of recording of findings, cardiovascular,
6 respiratory, et cetera? Is it just once a
7 shift?

8 A. Once a shift on 6 Main.

9 Q. I'm sorry?

10 A. Once a shift on the telemetry floor.

11 Q. Got it. Okay.

12 Do you know whose entry that is at
13 4:00 p.m.?

14 A. It's not initialed.

15 Q. Did you initial yours?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Where are your initials?

18 A. At the top it says 1100/DC.

19 Q. Are all of the others initialed prior
20 to yours?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The 1600 one is not; correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Standard nursing practice is to
25 initial these entries; true?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And the 1600 entry, which is 4:00
3 p.m., can we agree that that's the last
4 assessment on the 24 hour flowsheet for
5 Mr. Edwards?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Had you ever worked with Sherry
8 Edwards before?

9 A. I don't recall.

10 Q. Do you know who Sherry Edwards is?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Have you worked with Sherry Edwards
13 since?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you know where Sherry Edwards
16 works currently?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you ever talk with Sherry Edwards
19 about what went on during her shift?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Do you have any explanation for why
22 Mr. Edwards did not receive a blood transfusion
23 prior to his death?

24 A. Just there could have been like a
25 trauma going on and they needed all the blood,

1 or a more critical patient in the ICU that
2 needed the blood.

3 Q. You are speculating as to those
4 things?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you know of any trauma that
7 prohibited him from receiving the transfusion
8 that had been ordered?

9 A. No. I wasn't on 3:00 to 11:00 shift.

10 Q. So in terms of the reason why he
11 didn't receive his transfusion, do you know, or
12 has anyone indicated to you a reason for why it
13 did not happen in this case?

14 A. No. It wasn't ordered stat, it was
15 just ordered, so it could take a while.

16 Q. Normal nursing practice with an order
17 on a patient that's post-op, that has an order
18 for two units of packed red blood cells, that's
19 given in the time frame that it was prior to
20 transfer to the telemetry, but implemented or
21 put into the computer at 12:00 noon in
22 telemetry, do you know what is considered to be
23 a reasonable period of time for that transfusion
24 order to be implemented and the blood to
25 actually start to be administered?

1 A. It's individual. There is no
2 specific time.

3 Q. Would you agree that in terms of the
4 time on how quickly the transfusion should be
5 given, that that is more of a medical decision
6 than a nursing decision?

7 A. Yes. If they felt that he needed it
8 stat, they would've ordered it stat.

9 Q. Let me ask you this. Did you feel
10 looking at the order -- obviously you would have
11 seen the order, because it was on the sheet
12 during your shift; correct?

13 You would have been aware of the
14 order first?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. First he would've needed to be typed
17 and screened?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then the transfusion started at
20 some period of time.

21 Did you feel as a nurse working at
22 Huron Road that it would have been reasonable
23 and acceptable to start Mr. Edwards' transfusion
24 sometime the next day, the 29th?

25 A. If there were other things going on

1 in the hospital and with other patients, that
2 could happen.

3 Q. Absent some trauma or some problem in
4 the blood bank, would you expect that it would
5 be reasonable and prudent for Mr. Edwards to
6 have received the transfusion at some time on
7 the 28th, even though the order was not written
8 stat?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. No one has ever explained to you why,
11 even prior to midnight on the 29th, why he
12 didn't get the blood; correct?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you ever talk to Dr. D'Hue about
15 the monitoring of Mr. Edwards during your shift
16 or during Sherry Edwards' shift, the questions
17 that he had about what went on after Mr. Edwards
18 died?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did you ever talk with Dr. Dickerson
21 about the events that led up to Mr. Edwards'
22 death?

23 A. After, no.

24 Q. I take it you were home when
25 Mr. Edwards died?

1 A. I don't recall. I wasn't in the
2 hospital.

3 Q. I won't ask you where you were.
4 Did you work the next day?

5 A. I don't recall.

6 Q. Do you remember learning about his
7 death within a short period of time thereafter?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Who was it that told you about his
10 death?

11 A. Some of the night shift nurses.

12 Q. Who would that be?

13 A. Lekita Nance, Bill Bagi.

14 Q. What did they tell you?

15 A. That he passed away, expired.

16 Q. What else did they tell you?

17 A. Just that they found him
18 unresponsive.

19 Q. Did they indicate how long he had
20 been unresponsive?

21 A. No, they didn't.

22 Q. Did they indicate anything to you
23 about the status of the telemetry wires or the
24 telemetry unit?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Bill still works here?

2 A. The last time I saw him, he was just
3 working like one night a week, but I don't know
4 for sure if he is working still.

5 MR. MISHKIND: No further questions.

6 MS. SEACRIST: No questions.

7 MR. LENSON: Nothing. Thank you.

8 - - - - -

9 (Deposition concluded at 12:30 p.m.)

10 (Signature not waived.)

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1 AFFIDAVIT

2 I have read the foregoing transcript from
3 page 1 through 26 and note the following
4 corrections:

5 PAGE LINE REQUESTED CHANGE

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17

DANIELLE COATES, R.N.

18

19

20 Subscribed and sworn to before me this
21 day of , 2002.

22

23 Notary Public

24

25 My commission expires .

CERTIFICATE

State of Ohio,

SS:

County of Cuyahoga.

I, Vivian L. Gordon, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within named DANIELLE COATES, R.N. was by me first duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony as above set forth was by me reduced to stenotypy, afterwards transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony.

I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place specified and was completed without adjournment; that I am not a relative or attorney for either party or otherwise interested in the event of this action. I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28 (D).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland, Ohio, on this 5th day of June, 2002.



Vivian L. Gordon, Notary Public
Within and for the State of Ohio

My commission expires June 8, 2004.

| A | B | | | |
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