

Following Are Examples of Medical Malpractice Claims

Missed signs. The parents of a baby who sustained a brain injury at birth are suing the neonatologist who cared for the infant. The physician is part of the insured pediatric medical group. The plaintiffs allege the physician failed to treat and monitor the bilirubin level on their newborn. As a result, the baby has cerebral palsy, experiences seizures, has developmental motor delay and hearing and vision impairment.

The baby was born with Rh-isoimmune disease, which occurs most typically when the mother has Rh-negative blood. Immediately after birth, the baby was admitted to the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, where he received five blood transfusions. After the third transfusion, the baby's bilirubin level increased to an above normal level and continued to rise. Following the fifth transfusion, the baby developed severe neurological abnormalities, which can sometimes be attributed to persistent elevation of bilirubin levels. The case was settled out of court.

It's in the blood. A patient, hospitalized several times in a three-year span, had a family history of kidney disease. During these hospitalizations, she underwent routine blood work, the results of which were sent to her primary care physician's office. The plaintiff suffered complete renal failure. Her condition now requires her to undergo dialysis three times per week for the rest of her life. The patient filed suit against the primary care physician and an internist alleging they had failed to timely diagnose her progressive kidney disease. The plaintiff asserted that her blood test results had indicated increased creatine levels but the defendants had failed to properly act on this information. The parties settled during the course of the pretrial motions for \$700,000.

