

Imaging Scenario: Student Competency

Senario # 2

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In Scenario No. 2 it follows a young boy named Jacob who received a broken bone in his leg from a football practice over the summer. His leg had a compound fracture and had parts of it that pierced his skin. In the scenario it goes on to say he would need to receive surgery on his leg in order to realign it. After the surgery Jacob was told to return in a few weeks for a checkup on his leg and its healing. The issue starts when Jacob returns for his check up at the surgeon's office. On his visit his cast came off and his bone seemed to be healing nicely except for some inflammation around his stitching. After the doctor examined his leg he went to check on another patient, this patient had osteomyelitis. The doctor then went back and began to examine Jacobs leg more without re-gloving or washing his hands after dealing with the other patient. This would then lead to Jacobs leg contracting osteomyelitis as well. This infection would cause Jacob to undergo more surgery and cause his healing time to be extended. This caused Jacob to miss his entire senior year of football and miss out on college opportunities. Jacobs' parents went on to sue the doctor.

Looking at the situation the issue is immediately pointed out. The doctor was not using proper protection when dealing with Jacobs leg. At first he had gloves on when he handled Jacobs leg, but after he went to inspect the other patient he did not take the time to properly clean his hands or put on a clean pair of gloves. The doctor could have easily gone and washed his hands or even sanitized them while on his way back to Jacob's room. The best possible solution to the issue would be for the doctor to have taken the time to properly clean himself. If he had done this then Jacob's leg may have healed properly and he would have been able to play his football season and go on to get a college offer. Because of the doctor's simple mistake it affected Jacob's entire future. It is a standard principle for every medical professional to practice proper sanitization techniques and he did not follow any of them. Because of the situation things

got serious and Jacob's parents had to take serious actions. Jacob's parents went on to sue the doctor for his misconduct when handling Jacob's leg. There was clear malpractice involved so it is completely understandable as to why Jacob's parents would sue. Every person in the medical field is trained in handling patients in a clean and safe way so there is no excuse as to why the doctor did not try to sanitize his hands. There is no justifying what the doctor did; he is completely guilty of malpractice. This situation is very serious because in the worst case Jacob may have lost his leg due to the doctor's malpractice. Because of this mistake made by the doctor it may ruin his reputation and the facilities. It shows that he does not respect the obligations that he must follow, and it also shows that the facility does not push these obligations onto the staff. This kind of reputation can put him and the facility out of business. That is why all obligations and principles must be followed through with great intent. It's not only the doctor who can accidentally infect a patient without proper cleaning. We as radiographers must also use this as an example because we can easily make the same mistake. It could be as easy as us giving the other patient an x-ray and then putting Jacob on the table without cleaning it. A simple task such as cleaning can lead to detrimental things for the patient if not handled properly. This scenario has a good way of showing how bad a simple situation can get if not practicing simple principles. The solution to this is simple, all that needs to be done is making sure that proper guidelines and principles are being followed. If there is an issue that is being noticed then it should be dealt with by reminding not only the doctor but the entire staff as to why it is so important that these guidelines must be followed. With the constant reminding happening it will make the work environment a safer place not only for the patients but the whole facility.