



PHYSICIAN LEGAL CONSULTANTS OF NEBRASKA

Physicians Helping Attorneys Helping People

(402) 617-6103

www.plcne.com

NEWSLETTER

September 2024

This Month's Question:

[How Can a Medical Consultant Add Case Value by Finding Unrecognized Medical Problems?](#)

Physician Legal Consultants Response:

We recently had an interesting case that added significant value to the settlement. This case involved a 46 year old woman who was the properly restrained driver of a vehicle traveling at approximately 35 mph through an intersection. The driver of the offending vehicle went through a red light. The client's vehicle was broadsided by the offending vehicle.

The first thing to note is that this client had multiple injuries which are typical in auto crashes, as you know. The client's most serious problem was ongoing neck and back pain. She sustained ruptured discs at C4-5 and L5-S1 confirmed by MRI's. The client's most distressing and serious problem was dealing with her ongoing pain.

The client was unable to work due to the neck and back pain. This disruption to her life proved to cause subsequent problems that we spelled out in our report and needed to be addressed by her treating doctors.

The client's inability to work caused her marital discord and depression. In fact, depression is a very common problem after unexpected traumatic injuries. Depression is one of the most common sequelae of traumatic injury. In obtaining the client's history and reviewing the medical records it was evident she not only had significant symptoms of depression, but in addition, had not gotten a psychiatric evaluation or treatment for depression since the auto crash. This lack of treatment may have been due to no single physician actually directing her overall care since the auto crash.

We reported to the client's attorney that not only was the depression an unrecognized medical damage in the case but as well the client needed immediate evaluation and most likely medication & psychotherapy treatment which would add to the future medical care and costs of the case and treat the, to date, unrecognized medical condition that was a direct result of the accident.

This aspect of the case helps to emphasize we as Medical/Legal Consultants can look at all medical conditions involved in the case and that we have a unique opportunity to help individuals get the appropriate medical treatment they require as a result of their traumatic injuries in addition to adding value to the case.

Let Us Know How We Can Help You

We Offer:

- * Medical Summary Report: comprehensive medical review of client's injuries with medical opinions regarding mechanism of injury and causation
- * Review of case validity and value
- * Determination of future medical care and costs
- * Independent Medical Exam observation and rebuttal
- * Evaluating/developing medical theories
- * Answer Standard of Care questions
- * Answer specific medical questions
- * Medical research
- * Develop deposition and trial questions for experts

- * Attendance at deposition and trial if needed
- * Finding expert witnesses
- * Attorney liaison to treating physicians and family members
- * **We do not provide expert testimony**
- * Fee: \$270/hr. payable upon work completion

As you know, **we have purposefully kept our fees exceptionally low**, allowing you the opportunity to have us review your cases early in your representation while controlling your expenses.

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