

Settlement reached in fatal hospital mistake

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

Published 10:00 pm, Tuesday, September 13, 2005

EVERETT -- The family of an Everett woman who died last year after she was mistakenly injected with an antiseptic solution at **Virginia Mason Medical Center** has reached a settlement agreement with the hospital.

According to the agreement, **Virginia Mason** will use errors made in **Mary McClinton's** case to help train new employees on the proper labeling of medications. In addition, the hospital will donate money to a charity of the family's choice.

McClinton, 69, was recovering from surgery when she received an injection from an unlabeled bottle of the antiseptic, rather than a harmless dye that makes it easier to read X-rays. She died 19 days later.

Virginia Mason acknowledged and took full responsibility for the error.

The specific amount of the settlement is confidential, according to a statement released this week by **Lawrence Kahn**, the McClinton family's attorney.

The **Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations**, a national agency that reviews standards at hospitals, now requires accredited health care facilities to label all medications and solution containers.

"This change ... has been needed for years," Kahn said in the statement. "We are pleased that medical professionals are taking this seriously. Doing so will save lives."

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