

Fall From Therapy Stool Case Summary

The plaintiff, age fifty-five, was receiving physical therapy at the defendant hospital's outpatient physical therapy department when she was instructed by the physical therapist to sit on a four-legged stool with wheels and push the stool backwards with her feet. While doing this quadriceps-strengthening exercise, the stool tipped over and the plaintiff fell to the floor, sustaining rotator cuff impingement syndrome. The plaintiff did not undergo surgery for the condition. The defendants claimed that there was no negligence and contended that the plaintiff was properly instructed, assessed and observed. The defendant also maintained that the plaintiff had performed the exercise safely three times. The defendant argued that part of the plaintiff's problems was due to the plaintiff discontinuing a home exercise program for her pain. According to Cook County Jury Verdict Reporter a \$188,500 verdict was returned. Plaintiff's Expert: Henry Wessman, P.T., physical therapy, Baltimore, ?G. Defendant's Expert: Randy Frieser, P.T., physical therapy, Chicago, IL. *Juanita Richards v. Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital, Cook County (IL) Circuit Court, Case No. 95L-850.* Ronald S. Fishman and Kenneth A. Fishman, Fishman and Fishman, for the plaintiff. Mary Broderick Donnelly, Swanson, Martin, for the defendant.

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