

Late Test Results Opens Door for Malpractice

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A physician orders a test, the patient is tested, the lab results come back and then nothing happens. The results are filed in the patient's chart and not communicated to the doctor in time to make a crucial decision, which results in injury to the patient.

The Journal of the American College of Radiology published a recent study on medical malpractice as a result of communication breakdown, which includes failure to share test results. The number of suits between 1991 and 2010 quadrupled and cost \$91 million. Half the time the patient didn't receive the results which altered the patient's ability to make decisions about their care. The second largest area of fault was the physician didn't receive the results in time to alter the treatment plan.

As doctors and hospitals move to the electronic medical record, communication should improve with test results available immediately after they come back from the lab.

About Duran and Pandos, P.C.

Experienced medical malpractice attorney Debbie Pandos understands challenges to your practice and is ready to assist you in protecting your business. Contact her today at contact@duranandpandos.com or 908-344-3446.