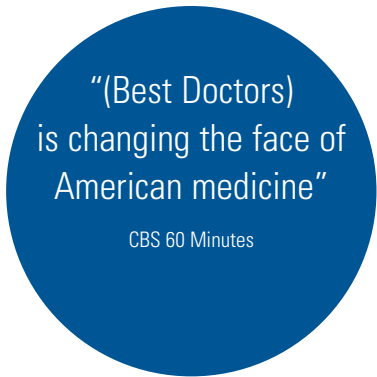


Case Analysis

Suspicious Death

Case Overview



Best Doctors Impact

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Patient | 47 year-old male |
| Initial Injury | Industrial accident in 2001 that resulted in below the knee amputation |
| Initial Treatment and Outcome | History of hepatitis C, oral cancer with spread to chest, dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), chemotherapy, hiatal hernia, pelvic crush, and narcotic use. |
| Subsequent Medical Conditions | Found dead in his home in 2003. Serum blood levels of morphine and oxycodone were obtained. The medical examiner gave a cause of death as an overdose of medications prescribed for the treatment of the injuries from the industrial accident. |
| Reason for Referral | Potential multi-million survivor benefit, clarify the issues in an effort to negotiate a settlement |

Determined That Opioid Levels Measured Were Not Lethal

Best Doctors and forensic expert determined that the levels of prescribed drugs were far below lethal levels. Further, he had no valid prescription for morphine at the time of death. Therefore, the cause of death as being related to prescription drugs was not supported.

Determined That Medical History Allowed For Several Plausible Causes of Death

These included pulmonary embolus, acute cardiac event, acute airway occlusion, gastric hemorrhage, metabolic disorders, other drug effects, and suicide. Without any pathological examination of the body or other toxicology screens, a reliable conclusion could not be given as to the cause of death, and a possible relationship of his death to treatment for the work injury was remote.

Outcomes

Case settled for a small fraction of the disputed amount.

Estimated savings based on information from the insurer's claims staff, Best Doctors Claims Database, and other sources.

Case Analysis

Systemic Infection

Case Overview

“These are complex cases requiring guidance from clinicians with superior knowledge and experience.”

Dr. Kenneth H. Falchuk, Professor
Harvard Medical School

Best Doctors Impact

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Patient | 36 year-old female nurse |
| Initial Injury | Skin infection with methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), a systemic infection considered to have been acquired at work in the hospital in 2004 |
| Initial Treatment and Outcome | Antibiotics, drainage, narcotics |
| Subsequent Medical Conditions | Multiple abscesses, chronic pain, depression, suicide attempt, disability |
| Reason For Referral | Wanted a solid treatment plan for her MRSA from infectious disease specialist; concern that she would need antibiotics for the rest of her life. |

Determination of Unrelatedness

Best Doctors determined that the patient’s infection was community-acquired, not acquired in her hospital job. Specifically, we noted that the culture and sensitivity of the organism was not compatible with hospital-acquired MRSA and that symptoms began after she cut herself shaving. An appropriate treatment and monitoring plan based on this diagnosis was recommended.

Outcomes

The patient’s infection and subsequent disability were **not compensable**. As a result of these actions, the carrier was able to:

- close the case
- protect reserves
- realize an estimated savings of more than \$75,000
- provide patient recommendations for appropriate care

Estimated savings based on information from the insurer’s claims staff, Best Doctors Claims Database, and other sources.

About Best Doctors

At Best Doctors, our business is clinical expertise. By harnessing the knowledge of over 50,000 doctors identified as the best in their specialties, Best Doctors represents an unparalleled resource. A unique combination of medical experience, skill, and insight that our clients, employers, insurers and reinsurers can access to help them confidently manage complex medical problems. Best Doctors was founded in 1989 by renowned physicians affiliated with Harvard Medical School and currently serves over 10 million people in 30 countries. Best Doctors has worldwide acclaim for successfully connecting patients to the best medical care.

For more information email legacy@bestdoctors.com



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