**C A S E 2**

*Scope of Practice*

Nadia is a registered health information technician who works as a release of information specialist at Anytown

General Hospital. Prior to going to school for Health Information Technology, she had completed a year and a

half of nursing school. She maintained a 4.00 grade point average in nursing school and did well in her classes.

However, she decided that she did not care for the hands-on patient care aspect of health care. Nadia especially

liked her pathophysiology and pharmacology courses when she was in school and had been considering going

back to school to prepare for a clinical research position.

Nadia always received excellent performance evaluations from her supervisor. She consistently did well at

all aspects of her position and was always willing to offer additional help for others in the department. She frequently

answered disease process questions for the coders because they appreciated her knowledge and experience

from nursing school.

One day, a patient and his wife presented to the release of information area to pick up a copy of the patient’s

recent test results to take to a specialist. The patient asked Nadia for some assistance in reading the report

because he was unsure of the terminology. Nadia was thrilled to help the patient. The patient had bilateral

Doppler studies done on his legs to follow up from a deep venous thrombosis (DVT). Nadia was not terribly

familiar with the format of the results, but she did not want the patient or her peers to know that she was not

100% sure of her interpretation. She did not see anything that looked alarming (to her), so she told the patient

and his wife that as far as she could tell, everything looked normal.

The patient was an avid runner and had been on bedrest since being diagnosed with the DVT. He did not have

an appointment to see the vascular specialist until next week. He and his wife discussed the fact that the woman

who gave them the test results interpreted them as normal and that it should be safe for him to get out and run

again. The patient and his wife went out for what they planned to be a three-mile run. However, two miles into

the run, the patient developed severe chest pain and shortness of breath and collapsed. His wife called for help,

and he was taken to the Anytown General emergency room (ER). Soon after arrival, he was pronounced expired

due to an embolism. The ER physician discussed what happened with the patient’s wife and explained that

he had reviewed the Doppler study they had picked up, and it clearly demonstrated that the DVT was still

present. He explained that when the patient was running, the clot became mobile and migrated to the pulmonary

artery. The patient’s wife explained to the ER physician that the woman who provided copies of their

records interpreted the results for them and told them that the tests appeared normal. The physician explained

that the person who gave them the records was not properly trained or licensed to determine diagnosis or interpret

test results and that they should have waited for the specialist to review the tests.