

Vignette 1:

The patient was admitted to a general hospital for treatment of a gallbladder problem. Her history included emotional problems based on marital difficulties with suicide attempts. After a series of tests, including consultation with a psychiatrist, the patient was informed that her gallbladder would be removed. Later that same day, her physician told her to dress and pack because he had arranged for her to be admitted to the state hospital. State troopers handcuffed her, strapped her to the seat of a troop car, and took her to the state hospital accompanied by a female hospital employee.

On arrival to the state hospital, the admitting officer realized that the physician lacked the requisite authority to order the patient's involuntary commitment. He asked her to sign a voluntary admission form, but she refused, protesting her presence there.

The admitting officer ignored the patient's complaints and assigned her to a ward without a proper physical or psychiatric examination and without contacting her family or her physician. She remained in the hospital over the weekend. What issues occurred here?

Vignette 2

A student and staff radiographer were requested to perform an intravenous pyelogram on 58-year-old women with hypertension. The staff radiographer, who was the department clown, ordered the student technologist to load two 50 cc syringes, one with contrast media, and the other with alcohol. The staff radiographer left the x-ray suite, leaving the student with the patient. The radiologist came into the room and grabbed one of the syringes without checking the empty contrast media vial. The radiologist injected the patient, upon completion of the injection, the patient immediately became comatose, and the patient was sent to the ER. Blood chemistry, later ordered, indicated that the patient had a high concentration of alcohol in her