



County of Los Angeles

September 10, 2024

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District

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Supervisor, Second District

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Supervisor, Third District

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Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda
County Claims Board Recommendation
Heather Randall v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00122**



Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, Case Summary, and Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

AMB:lzs

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Heather Randall v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00122, in the amount of \$200,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff suffered after receiving care and treatment at High Desert Regional Health Center.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Heather Randall vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23AVCV00122
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 1, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Steven F. Calderwood Calderwood Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On January 4, 2021, Heather Randall, a 32-year-old female, presented to High Desert Regional Health Center ("HDRHC") for swelling and redness in her right leg. She had an ongoing infection. A wound culture was obtained and she was given antibiotics.</p> <p>Ms. Randall continued receiving care at HDRHC. Despite various treatments, the infection could not be completely controlled, and Ms. Randall had to undergo a surgical procedure where her right leg was amputated below the knee.</p> <p>On February 1, 2023, Ms. Randall filed a lawsuit against the County for medical malpractice.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 22,938
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 3,818



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	July 12, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On January 4, 2021, a 32-year-old female patient, presented to High Desert Regional Health Center ("HDRHC") for swelling and redness in her right leg. She had an ongoing infection. A wound culture was obtained, and she was given antibiotics. Over a period of a year and a half, the patient continued receiving care at HDRHC. Despite various treatments, the infection could not be completely controlled, and she had to undergo a surgical procedure where her right leg was amputated below the knee.

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Podiatrist did not consult Infectious Disease (ID) specialist, failed to prescribe antibiotics to which isolated organisms were sensitive, did not obtain wound cultures to guide the selection of appropriate antibiotics, did not dose the oral antibiotics according to the patient's weight, made diagnostic errors, and did not document a discussion with the patient regarding the risk of poor healing of the surgical wound prior to the tendon Achilles lengthening procedure. • The Nurse Practitioner (NP) did not consider consulting an ID specialist and at times, did not prescribe antibiotics to which the isolated organism was sensitive, and did not obtain wound cultures to guide the selection of appropriate antibiotics. In addition, the NP's documentation did not include instructions advising the patient to seek treatment at an ER, should the wounds worsen. <p>Additional findings addressed in the CAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a delay in providing the patient with ordered DME. • The Primary Care Physician (PCP) did not expedite necessary studies and a referral for a patient with progressive neurologic deficits and did not document symptoms and pertinent findings of the patient's physical exam related to her back pain.
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2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the Just Culture evaluation process, all appropriate personnel actions were taken including formal counseling and education of staff involved regarding appropriate wound management, antibiotic management, IV administration, workflow processes, expedited radiology workflow, and documentation. Staff who were found to be "at-risk" are undergoing additional evaluation with appropriate follow-up. • Medical Case Workers are receiving additional training on how to escalate cases when DME vendors do not provide the ordered DME

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

- Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
- No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Arun Patel, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 6/14/24

Name: (Department Head) Christina R. Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 6/25/24

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY	
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.	
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Daniela Prowizor-Lacayo	
Signature: 	Date: 6/25/2024