



County of Los Angeles

May 6, 2025

Dawyn R. Harrison  
County Counsel

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**Board of Supervisors**

Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor, First District

Holly Mitchell  
Supervisor, Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath  
Supervisor, Third District

Janice Hahn  
Supervisor, Fourth District

Kathryn Barger  
Supervisor, Fifth District

TO: EDWARD YEN  
Executive Officer  
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS  
Litigation Cost Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AMB', is placed next to the name 'ADRIENNE M. BYERS'.

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**  
**County Claims Board Recommendation**  
**Makroohi Nishanian, et al. v. Keck Hospital of USC, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV04775**



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 Makroohi Nishanian, et al. v. Keck Hospital of USC, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV04775, in the amount of \$550,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This medical malpractice lawsuit concerns allegations that a patient died at Los Angeles General Medical Center due to inadequate care.

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| CASE NAME                   | Makroohi Nishanian, et al. v. Keck Hospital of USC, et al.   |
| CASE NUMBER                 | 24STCV04775  |
| COURT                       | Los Angeles County Superior Court  |
| DATE FILED                  | February 27, 2024  |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT           | Department of Health Services  |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT  | \$ 550,000   |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF      | Jason Argos<br>Law Office of Kophan and Bablove  |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY     | Narbeh Bagdasarian<br>Principal Deputy County Counsel  |
| NATURE OF CASE              | Plaintiffs allege that, on December 23, 2022, Taniel Nishanian died as a result of receiving inadequate care at Los Angeles General Medical Center. Due to the uncertainties of litigation, the proposed settlement of this matter is warranted. |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 0   |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE         | \$ 0   |



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to 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:                              | December 23, 2022  |
| Briefly provide a description of the incident/event: | On December 23, 2022, T.N. died at Los Angeles General Medical Center. His surviving family filed a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles and other defendants. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, the proposed settlement of this matter is warranted. |

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

Misinterpretation of an abnormal EKG due to hemorrhagic shock related to a liver biopsy at a non-county facility.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- The facility developed a tool to assist in categorizing patients with suspected myocardial infarctions.
- The department conducted a survey to evaluate use of the above tool by the other DHS facilities.
- The facility modified the process for recording laboratory values.

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:

02/21/2025

Name: (Department Head)  
Christina Ghaly, MD

Signature:



Date:

3/3/2025

**Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY**

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- ☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
- ☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)

Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General

Signature:



Date:

3/5/2025