



December 4, 2014

Families claiming Bloomfield Hills doctor intentionally misdiagnosed epilepsy for profits win court battle



By Gus Burns

DETROIT, MI -- The families of children who claim Oakwood Hospital's since-fired Dr. Yasser Awaad of Bloomfield Hills intentionally misdiagnosed their children with epilepsy to make money won a small court battle today.

There are over 300 families who filed letters with Oakwood, which operates hospitals throughout Metro Detroit, notifying of their intent to sue, and potentially more than 1,000 claimants who could participate in the class-action suit, said Brian J. McKeen, the Detroit-based attorney with McKeen & Associates who is acting as counsel for the claimants.

Brian Benner, the attorney formerly handling the lawsuit, has since [been disbarred](#) for misappropriation of settlement monies.

Awaad, whose license was suspended in 2012 and since reinstated, is accused of conducting a slew of unneeded tests, as well as prescribing debilitating medications and performing procedures, including implants that pumped unnecessary medication into patients, when they didn't have epilepsy or seizure disorders.

Awaad "had incentive-laden contract that provided him with a financial incentive to generate more bills," McKeen said. "The more bills he generated, the more" money he made.

The contract specifically rewarded Awaad for epilepsy referrals.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Daphne Means in September ruled to de-certify the small-claims lawsuit, which meant each claimant would have to file separately and would be subject to a statute of limitations.

After reviewing the decision, Means on Thursday vacated her prior ruling; so the class-action lawsuit can proceed, said McKeen.

There are 14 motions before the judge, many of which are related to documents and information the claimants are seeking from the Oakwood Hospital.

"Oakwood has dodged our efforts to seek the truth and get to the bottom of this debacle ..."
"McKeen says.

Oakwood, as of Thursday evening, had not returned a call from MLive Detroit requesting comment.

Anyone treated by Dr. Yasser Awaad may contact [McKeen's law firm](#), 866-585-1076 or 313-447-0634.