

Wrong Meds Can Kill You

By Dr. Eva Mor



Mrs. T. was not a client of our agency; she was a good friend of my parents. She was a widow, quite independent and in fairly good health up to the age of 83. I had been seeing her on all family gatherings such as holiday dinners, birthdays and other celebrations.

My mother called me one day to report that a hospital called her to notify her that her friend, Mrs. T., was taken to the hospital by ambulance after suffering a stroke. She was not able to give any personal information but the nurse found my mother's phone number in her handbag and called her.

I went to the hospital and found my mother's friend in very serious condition. She survived the stroke but there was a lot of damage done. Before bringing

her home, I arranged for her home care aide, 24/7, through Medicaid since she had no assets of her own.

While coordinating her medical treatment, I found out that for several years she had been suffering from high blood pressure and had not followed doctors' orders. She had been taking medication at random and there was also a question as to correct doses. This pattern caused her blood pressure to be very irregular, spiking to very dangerous levels, eventually causing her to have a massive stroke.

Now she is assisted by an aide who reminds her to take her medications on time and in the proper dose. Mrs. T. has a nurse visit weekly who sorts her medication for the week; her

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