

Punish unfit nurses, mother pleads

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
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Sharon Shore hopes jurors at the inquest into her 10-year-old daughter's death at the Hospital for Sick Children will come down hard on nurses who don't do their jobs.

Speaking to reporters following her testimony at Coroner's Court in Toronto Tuesday, Shore said the jury's recommendations should focus on better nursing care.

"There's no use recommending different rules and protocol, there were rules and protocol in place," Shore said. "We need to make sure that the people who don't follow rules and protocol don't work as nurses."

Suffering from chronic leg pain, Lisa Shore was admitted to the hospital's emergency ward on Oct. 21, 1998.

She died a few hours later, in the hospital's pain management ward as her mother slept a few feet away.

The inquest has focused on whether or not nurses caring for Lisa hooked her up to a corometric monitor, a machine that measures heart rate and breathing.

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CORONER SAYS HE WAS NEVER TOLD ABOUT MONITOR

No monitor in hospital room, girl's mother insists

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During her testimony, Shore contradicted two nurses, saying they could not have hooked her daughter up to the machine, which sounds a shrill alarm when a patient is in distress.

Shore said she did not see a monitor in Lisa's room before she fell asleep and she would have been awakened by the machine's alarm, which briefly sounds when it is turned on, if it had been hooked up later.

Hospital lawyer Patrick Hawkins asked Shore whether the trauma of her daughter's unexpected death may have caused her to forget "a beep" that sounded when the machine was attached to Lisa.

"There was no monitor in the room, therefore there could have been no beep," Shore said forcefully.

When asked if she agreed with nurses who said Lisa had been hooked up to the machine, Shore said, "I would say that they are wrong."

Testimony by an investigating coroner appeared to support Shore.

Dr. Morton Reingold said he was never told about a corometric monitor when he was dispatched to the hospital a few hours after Lisa's death.

He said he was surprised to hear that two nurses claimed to have hooked Lisa up to the machine.

Had he known about the monitor at the time of his investigation, Rein-

gold said he would have seized it as evidence.

"I was not told about it (in October, 1998) when I asked about relevant events and equipment used," he said.

The disputed monitor was never tracked down by the hospital, despite being affixed with a numbered tag so it could be traced within the hospital, along with 132 other corometric monitors.

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While the inquest has focused on the use of a monitor, Shore has stressed that her daughter's care was also lacking in other areas.

The inquest has heard:

- Nurses failed to check doctor's orders on an in-house computer system, which is hospital protocol.

- Lisa's blood pressure wasn't taken regularly, nor was she awakened during the night as a precaution.

- A nurse with only five months experience was forced to watch over Lisa and eight other patients by herself for about two hours.

The Shore family's lawyer, Frank Gomberg, said a complaint against the Sick Children's Hospital nurses will be filed with the College of Nurses of Ontario following the inquest.