

### **34. Case Histories, Forensics, And Design Instruction**

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A recent case investigated by the author involved the use of a “smart” monitoring system. This system was connected to a new patient in an overnight monitoring environment in a crowded hospital. The patient was properly connected, but the patient alarms were never set. The patient died, and a suit ensued. This case is one of over 20 that the author uses in senior design lectures as a means to invoke discussion of human as well as machine error, proper safety considerations in device design, as well as to teach students how to access the FDA websites relating to medical device malfunctions. The author will describe several such cases and their value in teaching design, and will cite several reference materials useful to utilize in this method of teaching.

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