

Patient says he was scalded

By: **MELISSA MILEWSKI** (Tue, Oct/04/2005)

A cancer patient sued Central Montgomery Medical Center in Hatfield Township and one of its nursing assistants, claiming the employee scalded him with hot, soaked towels during a stay at the hospital.

Joseph Ferst of Norristown claims he suffered second- and third-degree burns on his chest from piping-hot towels that nursing assistant Robin Daniels put on his body in May, according to the suit.

The suit states that Daniels of Hatfield placed the towels on Ferst's body in an effort to warm him up on May 22, three days after he underwent surgery for colon cancer. Ferst claims the burns left him with scarring and tissue damage on his chest.

Richard K. Washington Jr., Ferst's attorney, declined to comment Monday. Hospital spokeswoman Jeanne Stark did not return a phone call seeking comment Monday.

The suit claims the center was negligent for failing to properly manage and supervise nursing assistants, failing to instruct employees in burn prevention, failing to recognize Ferst's burns and failing to train staff to properly care for burns.

Daniels was negligent because she failed to follow state health department policies and procedures, failed to use dry blankets to warm Ferst and failed to detect and then treat his burns in a "timely manner," according to the suit.

Melissa Milewski can be reached at (610) 279-6153 or m_milewski@yahoo.com