

Tuesday, Aug. 12, 1997

Jury awards \$550,000 in malpractice case

A jury has awarded a Dover man \$550,000 after hearing a week's worth of evidence in a medical malpractice and wrongful death case.

James Edwards Sr. of 416 E. 11th St. is the executor of the estate of his wife, Maryella Edwards, 67, who died Nov. 24, 1994, after being treated in Union Hospital. Attorneys for Edwards filed a lawsuit in November 1995 against the hospital, emergency room doctor Greg A. Christensen and radiologist Dr. Thomas A. Jackson.

Edwards' attorneys claimed Union Hospital, Christensen and Jackson failed to adequately care for the victim by failing to diagnose Maryella Edwards' ruptured spleen. She died shortly after being flown by helicopter to Akron City Hospital despite an operation the same day.

The jury returned its verdict after about 5½ hours of deliberation.

Christensen and the hospital denied any wrongdoing.

Jackson, employed by Radiology & Imaging Services Inc., settled out of the case shortly before the trial began by paying \$175,000 in damages and that amount will be deducted from the total award. Jackson testified he mistakenly read a CT scan of Edwards' abdomen and passed the misinformation onto Christensen.

According to court records, in November 1994 Christensen was employed by EmergiMed Inc., a company hired by Union Hospital to provide emergency room doctors. Christensen testified he no longer works at Union Hospital.

Although the jurors specifically requested a \$30,000 verdict be entered against Union Hospital, Lile said the request is not permissible by law because, he ruled, there was no direct negligence on the part of Union Hospital.