

The Attorney's Checklist: First Steps for Medication-Related Cases

1. Do you have all of the patient's medical records (including all pharmacy records)?
2. What is the age of the patient? (very young or very old – safety issues)
3. Have you browsed some user-friendly and free sources of drug information for insight into the patient's medication regimen?
4. Do you have the latest prescribing information for the patient's drugs?
5. Was the medication safe for the patient? (need list of medical conditions and other drugs)
6. Was the dose prescribed appropriate?
7. Are any of the patient's drugs associated with serious toxicity in genetically predisposed patients? (Did the patient have pharmacogenomic testing done?)
8. Were there any antidotes used (indicating possible drug toxicity)?
9. Were drug levels done? Why were they ordered?
10. Do you need a toxicology expert to help with your case? If you think you do...
 - Does the expert have specialized training in the field of toxicology?
 - What type of toxicology does the expert have experience in? Clinical or medical (patient-centered), reproductive, analytical, forensic?
 - Does the expert have board certification in toxicology? Is the certification still valid?
 - What academic experience does the expert have in toxicology? Publications? Teaching? Research?
 - Does the expert have experience with your particular type of case?

