**Case ROOM 406**

It was 4:56 P.m. on the surgical floor of Collins Memorial Hospital. Nurse Rhoda Fleming, an efficient head nurse with 15years of experience, was in charge of the floor that afternoon. As is the case in many hospitals, she had responsibility for several patients herself as wee as assuming supervisory responsibilities over other floor nurses. Making a final room check of her patients prior to the arrival of her 5:00 P. m. in Room 406 she found that Mr. Henry Youstra, who had undergone surgery the week before and not done well had died. She pulled the sheet over the face of the body and made a mental note to tell her relief to empty the room for a new patient, bed space being especially important at this time in the hospital.

After finishing her check she returned to the floor desk, the evening shift supervisor, Anne Simmons, had already arrived, and was waiting at the desk.

Hi, Anne. 406 just died, so that room’s all set to go again, too bad. We can certainly use the space though;

That is for sur. Has 411 had her shot yet? Dr. Alpers really climbed on me yesterday about it. You know how he is”

“No, not yet. You’d better do that right away.”

“ does he office know that 406 is ready?

No, you’ ll need to call them after you get things taken care of.”

Nurse supervisor Fleming then left, and Simmons gave 411 her shot and went about other duties, dropping in on her patients, and chatting with nurses on the shift.

At 5:45p.m. she called the office and told them that room 406 was ready for occupancy, though she had not checked the room herself. She was told that a patient would be move from recovery and would ultimately occupy 406.

Visitor’s hours began at 7:00 p.m.at the hospital. As she had been doing three times a daily throughout the week, as the fourth floor elevator doors opened, Mrs. Henry youstral walked out and wend down the hall to visit her husband.

At 8;00p.m. the end of visiting hours, Nurse supervisor Simmons checked each of her assigned patient rooms to see that visitors had left. In room 406 she found Mrs . Youstra dead on the floor bedside the bed containing her husband’s body.