



- a. Why was the patient sent to an acute hospital?
  - b. Did an accident, such as a fall or suspected fracture, occur which required x-rays and possible surgery?
  - c. If there was a fall, where was the patient at the time? Time and date of fall?
  - d. Check doctors' orders and any waivers permitted at this facility.
  - e. Check nurses' notes for charting of the accident. Was the patient ambulatory? Was the accident witnessed? Was the floor wet, et cetera? Prior to the fall, were rails required on the bed? Was the patient usually in restraints?
  - f. Check medications, amount, and time dispensed. By whom? Are medications kept locked up?
3. Examine the body carefully for bruising and any signs of trauma bearing in mind that elderly people frequently have areas of ecchymosis and purpura, and if they have been inactive, decubitus ulcers may be present.
  4. While conducting the investigation, the condition of the facility should be noted regarding cleanliness and its general appearance as well as the condition of the room, bedding, and especially the body. The body should be checked for cleanliness, appearance, and decubitus.