



Patients file suit against Cardinal Health
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From staff reports

Surgical patients in North Carolina have filed a class-action lawsuit against Cardinal Health and a cleaning-materials company in connection with the contamination of surgical instruments at Duke University hospitals in 2004.

The Dublin-based health services company is alleged to have sold barrels containing used hydraulic fluid but marked as cleaning fluid to two hospitals at Duke University in 2004. For two months, surgeons at the hospitals operated on 4,000 patients not knowing that their instruments had been washed with waste hydraulic fluid instead of soap.

The lawsuit against Cardinal Health and Steris Corp. represents 67 patients and their spouses. It alleges that the barrels had once contained the cleaning products but had been filled with the waste fluid by an elevator company doing work at one of the hospitals.

The plaintiffs are seeking more than \$30,000 in damages, and their spouses are seeking \$10,000 in damages, according to the suit filed in Durham County, N.C., Superior Court.

Officials of Dublin-based Cardinal declined to comment.

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