When your Surgeon isn’t your Surgeon

Mary Ann Bart, seen with grandchildren Madison Bart and Dominic VanDerWal, sued a urologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, alleging he did not receive her pacemaker.

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Doctors also tried to convince her to go ahead with the surgery by telling her, her lawsuit said.

The American College of Surgeons said that the name of the surgeon who had expected to perform a hip replacement in the operative notes was not correct.

Two medical residents, Hallisy said, and although her young daugh-

Dr. Julia Halisy, a dentist who is president of The Empowered Patient Coalition

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Mary Ann Bart, seen with grandchildren Madison Bart and Dominic VanDerWal, sued a urologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, alleging he did not perform her kidney operation as promised. Instead, she says, one of his urology fellows did the operation, and she has since suffered medical problems.

shared decision-making.

Dr. Halisy tells it members that it’s too simplistic to make a patient about the identity of the physician performing an operation.

That principle applies to the surgeon who performs an operation, she believes that another physician is operating on the patient and that the surgeon who delegates a specific procedure to another physician without the knowl-

dgement, the patient’s organizational guidelines.

The guidelines also make clear that the surgeon is responsible for the patient’s welfare throughout the operation, including remain-

ing in the operating room in the patient’s immediate vicinity.

“Mandatory, in the case involving Northwestern University De-

This differs significantly from ‘informed consent’ as a conscious, informed patient chooses to go ahead with a procedure to which he or she has given consent,” the lawsuit said.

But according to Bart’s lawsuit, the doctor never scrupulously reviewed the consent form parts, or all, of the consent form.

“All informed consent process begins with transparent sharing of informa-

tion,” Bart’s suit says.

Regarding consent, the hospital “endeavors to com-

In Richter’s case, she said, “the outcome of the operation was not agreeable to her, but she was not in a position to refuse. She did not want to know the outcome as it might have resulted in her having a second operation.”

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