THE INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Telemedicine For Personal Injury Accident Victims: Part 2
- March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month
- Laura Carpey’s Recipe of the Month: Chocolate Ganache Bottom Banana Cream Pie
- Watch Out For The Snowplows!
- My Case Settled, Where’s My Check?
- Laura Carpey’s Recipe of the Month: March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month
- Telemedicine For Personal Injury Accident Victims: Part 2
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Call me with any legal questions about injuries from any accident or medical care. I promise to give you a straightforward answer. That’s my guarantee.

Stuart Carpey

Raving Fan of the Month

“Mr. Carpey is an excellent lawyer. After meeting him over the phone, I knew immediately that he would be the perfect lawyer for my injury case. He quickly got to work and communicated with me often. He understood my case and took every necessary measure. He’s incredibly professional and helped me understand every step of the process. I was very happy with the outcome. I highly recommend him.” - Bridget Wagar

Telemedicine For Personal Injury Accident Victims: Part 2

As with every other aspect of our lives, doctors and patients now need to limit their contact with one another to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Anyone who’s been to a doctor’s office recently has experienced the change in what used to be an expected and “normal” routine. In Pennsylvania, as well as across the country, medical providers are utilizing telemedicine to treat their patients on a regular basis. Every month we get calls from clients wondering what their treatment should look like for injuries related to an accident. This article will discuss the common questions our office has received over the past year about telemedicine and how to continue to receive medical care if you’ve been injured in an accident and your doctor’s office is limiting the number of office visits due to Covid-19.

Will I Get The Same Level Of Medical Care If The Doctor Is Not Physically Seeing Me In His Or Her Office Setting?

This is a common concern of all patients, and rightly so. The quality of treatment should remain exactly the same as if you are being seen in the doctor’s office. Nevertheless, the “standard of care” is a concern. For example, in the office setting, your doctor will be able to feel, palpate and examine you in a much more personal way than over a computer screen or on the phone. Will your doctor pay as much attention to your ailments if he examines you via video as compared to in the office? That is something that the medical community is going to have to deal with as time goes on. Any time there is a new medical treatment, new device, new type of surgery, or new medical technology, for example, the “standard of care” changes, and medical providers are required to adhere to that change. Therefore, in the event that a doctor suspects a problem based on the video chat appointment, he or she will be required to have you come in for an office appointment so the concern can be rectified to the extent necessary to adhere to the “standard of care.” In other words, your doctor can’t just say “I did my best to see that on the video, and that’s enough.”

Much of the healthcare and patient diagnosis processes rely on subtle details that doctors may need to detect in person. Such details can in fact be missed on a computer screen. However, online care continues to develop as technology improves at a rapid rate. Doctors have access to many devices that have proven to be sufficient substitutes for traditional tools. Electronic stethoscopes, for example, can be used in place of physical ones to monitor a patient’s internal organs.
March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month

So, if brain traumas are a major contributor to so many deaths, what is the major contributor to so many brain traumas? In his book “Traumatic Brain Injury Survival Guide,” Neurologist Glen Johnson says most of the patients who come to him with brain injuries suffered their injuries as a result of car accidents.

Dr. Johnson goes on to outline the different classifications of head injuries, Open and Closed:

Open Head Injury (OHI)
Open head injuries often come as a result of hitting one’s head on any number of surfaces: windshields, steering wheels, etc. These injuries can cause bruising and fracturing of the skull, external damages which alert doctors of possible internal trauma to the brain.

Closed Head Injury (CHI)
Closed head injuries are harder to identify. Similar to a hypertension or “whiplash,” an abrupt stop in an automobile can jostle the brain, pushing it against the skull to cause bruising, bleeding or tearing with no observable marks on the skull’s exterior. Such injuries can result in brain swelling which, due to the limited space within the skull, might put pressure on the brain, thereby damaging brain tissue.

If you’ve experienced a head injury and are unsure if you require medical assistance, here’s a list of symptoms attributed to mild brain injuries, compliments of TraumaticBrainInjury.com:

Mild Symptoms
- Fatigue
- Headaches
- Memory loss
- Insomnia
- Balance issues
- Depression
- Seizures

Whether open or closed, not all head injuries are apparent right away, and even mild injuries can require medical attention. If you believe you have in any way suffered a brain injury, you should seek medical attention at once.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says, every year, 1.7 million people sustain Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) with 1.3 million emergency room visits, 275,000 hospitalizations, and 52,000 deaths. The CDC also says that brain injuries are “a contributing factor to a third (30.5%) of all injury-related deaths in the United States.”

Chocolate Ganache Bottom Banana Cream Pie

INGREDIENTS:
- Graham cracker pie crust
- 2 1/2 cups heavy cream, divided
- 6 tablespoons butter, divided
- 8 oz. good quality chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 8 oz. good quality chocolate chips
- 6 tablespoons butter, divided

MAKE GANACHE:
Combine 3 tablespoons of the butter and 1 1/2 cup of the heavy cream in a sauce pan and bring to a simmer. Pour over chocolate chips in a separate bowl and let stand until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth and glossy. Pour about 3/4 of the mixture into the pie crust and spread evenly. Reserve remaining ganache.

MAKE CUSTARD:
Whisk granulated sugar and cornstarch in a large saucepan to combine. Add egg and egg yolks and which vigorously until smooth and pale. Whisk in milk, vanilla, and salt. Place sauce pan over medium heat and bring to a simmer, whisking often, about 8-10 minutes until thickened and thickened. Reduce heat and continue to simmer, whisking constantly for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool 5 minutes, whisking constantly for 3 minutes. Add remaining 2 tablespoons butter to pudding and whisk until melted and fully incorporated.

ASSEMBLY:
Arrange banana slices over chocolate ganache. Fold diced banana into pudding, and spoon filling. If reserved ganache has set and become firm in its bowl, set bowl over a sauce pan of simmering water to melt it again. Drizzle melted ganache over whipped cream. Serves 8.

My Case Settled, Where’s My Check?

In the last few months, there have been some delays in receiving clients’ settlement checks. The recent delays have generally been caused by the US Postal System First-Class Mail. This has become a recognized problem in Pennsylvania, and in other states. This has not, in our experience, been a concerted effort by insurance companies in delaying the delivery of settlement checks. In point of fact, the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation acknowledged the delays with the United States Postal Service related to First-Class Mail specifically related to claimant’s receipt of benefits in a timely manner. For clients of ours receiving workers compensation benefits in lieu of weekly pay checks, this is obviously problematic. At Carpey Law, we are tracking each and every settlement check that comes in, and if not delivered within 20 days of settlement, we are reaching out to the insurance company for prompt follow up. We are also demanding that insurance companies deliver their settlement checks to our offices by FedEx or UPS for tracking purposes. We have the ability to file motions for sanctions if settlement checks are not timely delivered. From the very beginning of the case through to conclusion of the case, we do everything we can to ensure excellent client services.

Laura Carpey’s Recipe of the Month

Chocolate Ganache Bottom Banana Cream Pie

If you are a motorist or walk on snow, you could be struck by a snowplow operator. What are your rights? The short answer is that if it’s a municipality (owned and operated by the city) you will have a harder time bringing a lawsuit since the law grants some immunities to municipalities. If the snowplow is owned by a private contractor, however, there are no immunities. Nevertheless, if you were injured in an accident with a city or privately owned snowplow, call us. We’ll let you know your options.

Reminder About Our Firm’s Communication Policy

About us: We perform very high quality legal work. We are highly competent and we have a highly competent support staff but we are not perfect. We can make mistakes. We will correct a mistake if we find it or if you point it out.

It is our policy to return phone calls in the order they are received and based on the priority of the situation. If you leave a message, your call will be returned within 24 hours. Some clients feel that calling multiple times in a day will get their call answered faster, but that is not the case. Email is the quickest way to get a response from anyone in the office.

We work by appointment only. Without an appointment, it is unlikely Mr. Carpey would be able to meet with you. Please utilize our support staff to answer your questions and to give you status reports. Our legal assistants and paralegals are very experienced and will often be able to respond to your requests.
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Dr. Johnson goes on to outline the different classifications of head injuries: Open, Closed, and Open Head Injury (OHI).

Open Head Injury (OHI) - Open head injuries often occur as a result of hitting one’s head on any number of surfaces: windshields, steering wheels, etc. These injuries cause bruising and laceration of the skull, external damages which alert doctors of possible internal trauma to the brain.

Closed Head Injury (CHI) - Closed head injuries are harder to identify. Similar to a hyperextension (or “whiplash”) injury, an abrupt stop in an automobile can jolt the brain, pushing it against the skull to cause bruising, bleeding or tearing with no discernible marks on the skull’s exterior. Such injuries can result in brain swelling which, due to the limited space within the skull, might put pressure on the brain, thereby damaging brain tissue.

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1 tablespoon butter, divided
1 oz. good quality chocolate chips
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1/3 cup cornstarch
4 large ripe but firm bananas
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 cups whole milk
1/4 cup powdered sugar

MAKE CUSTARD:
Whisk granulated sugar and cornstarch in a large saucepan to combine. Add eggs and egg yolks and whisk vigorously until smooth and pale. Heat in milk, vanilla, and salt. Place saucepan over heat and let cool 5 minutes, whisking constantly for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool 5 minutes, whisking every minute. Add remaining 2 tablespoons butter to pudding and whisk until melted and fully incorporated.

MAKE ASSEMBLY:
Arrange banana slices over chocolate ganache. Fold-diced banana into pudding, and spoon pudding over diced bananas and ganache. Smooth surface. Chill until cold and set, at least two hours and up to a day.

Using an electric mixer, beat remaining 2 cups heavy cream with powdered sugar in a large bowl until soft peaks form. Spoon whipped cream over filling. Reserve ganache has set and become firm in its bowl, set bowl over a sauce pan of simmering water. Remove from heat and let cool 5 minutes, whisking every minute. Add remaining 2 tablespoons butter to ganache and whisk until melted and fully incorporated.

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