

DR. NARENDRA DADU VS. FORTIS ESCORT HEART INSTITUTE & RESEARCH CENTRE

THROWING LIGHT ON “ REASONABLE STANDARD OF CARE”

In this landmark judgement, the Supreme Court reiterated the ruling in *Arun Kumar Manglik v/s Chirayu Health & Medicare (P) Ltd* while elaborating on the standard of reasonable care in cases of medical negligence highlighting that while variations in medical opinions are acceptable, the treatment must meet a standard of reasonable care.

Dr. Narendra Dadu, a 62-year-old patient with a history of diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery disease, and tubercular meningitis, suffered severe complications after undergoing an elective angioplasty at Fortis Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre, Delhi. The procedure, aimed at improving his cardiac health, led to severe pulmonary edema and neurological damage, eventually leaving him in a vegetative state. In the instant case, the hospital failed to provide the necessary monitoring and treatment, resulting in significant harm to the patient.

As a result, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) ordered Fortis Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre, Delhi, and the head of its cardiac department to pay Rs.65 lakhs in compensation. This amount covers loss of income, medical expenses, pain and suffering, and litigation costs, with an additional 6% interest from the date of the complaint until full payment is made. The judgement emphasizes the necessity of adhering to high standards in patient care.