

2 Deaths Reported at VA Hospital

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ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Two deaths were reported by the Veterans administration hospital here yesterday, one death, sources said, the result of an injection of a paralyzing drug.

The deaths boosted to 10 the number of deaths under investigation by the FBI in several breathing failure cases.

There were 56 respiratory failures at the hospital between July 1 and Aug. 15, the day the FBI probe began. In a usual month, hospital officials said, five to eight incidents of respiratory failure are reported.

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X 28 Hospital officials confirmed the death on Thursday of an arthritis hip patient, Adam Oelberg, 59, who had suffered an unexplained respiratory attack Aug. 14 and was in a coma.

Sources said Oelberg apparently was murdered by someone who deliberately injected a paralyzing drug into his body.

The second death was that of Benny C. Blaine, 46, an intestinal disorder patient who also died Thursday. Hospital officials said Blaine was one of three male patients who suffered breathing failures Aug. 15.

Sources said officials ordered samples of Blaine's urine and bile for testing. Results of the tests, which were expected to indicate whether a muscle-relaxing drug had been injected, were not finalized.