

# Inquiry Into 11 Hospital Deaths

## Names 2 Nurses as Key Figures

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DETROIT, March 2 (AP)—Two nurses have been named in legal documents as key figures in an investigation into a series of breathing failures among patients at Ann Arbor's Veterans Administration Hospital.

Named in the brief filed in United States District Court yesterday by the United States Attorney's office were Filipina B. Narciso, 29 years old, of Ypsilanti, Mich., and Leonora M. Perez, 31, a former Ann Arbor resident.

About 40 unexplained breathing failures occurred at the hospital in July and early August before the Federal Bureau of Investigation was called in, the authorities have said. Eleven of the patients died at the time or later.

Investigators have said they believed a muscle-paralyzing drug was injected intentionally into the patients' bloodstreams through intravenous equipment to which they already were attached.

The legal brief was filed in connection with a request for court permission to take testimony from Richard Neely, 61, of Osceola, Ind., a dying man

who may have been a victim of a murder attempt at the hospital.

If the permission is granted, Mr. Neely could be questioned under oath by prosecutors with the two nurses and their attorneys present. A court reporter would keep a transcript of the proceedings and the nurses' lawyers would have the right to cross-examine.

Thomas O'Brien, an attorney for the nurses, said yesterday he would oppose the Government attempt to obtain the deposition. Mr. O'Brien said he would argue that the rules for depositions do not allow them to be taken unless an indictment has been handed down. The two nurses have not been charged and have never before been mentioned in an official document in the case.

Richard Delonis, the Federal prosecutor in charge of the case, acknowledged that the procedure was unusual. He said it was necessary because he feared Mr. Neely might die before indictments were issued.

A Federal grand jury has been taking testimony on the case since November, and both nurses have appeared before the panel.