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— In the News —

Settlement

A hospital accused of failing to properly care for a pregnant woman agreed to settle a medical malpractice claim this week for \$5.5 million, according to an attorney.

Monica Mason, 41, went to a scheduled visit with her obstetrician in 2005 when she was eight months pregnant.

She was suffering from pregnancy-induced hypertension and taking medication, but on the day of her office visit, her blood pressure was severely elevated. As a result, she was directed to go to the labor and delivery department at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

While traveling to the hospital, Mason developed respiratory distress that resulted in flash pulmonary edema. The child was delivered healthy, but Mason suffered a hypoxic-ischemic brain injury, which impairs judgment and reasoning skills.

Mason's husband served as a court-appointed guardian in the claim. No lawsuit was filed.

David R. Barry Jr. of Corboy & Demetrio P.C. represented the husband. Northwestern Memorial Hospital was represented by **William B. Bower**, who wasn't available for comment.