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IN THE NEWS

SETTLEMENT

The University of Illinois Hospital has agreed to pay more than \$6.8 million in a structured settlement to a woman who suffered brain damage after a breathing tube clogged. The settlement will provide for the medical care of Antonia Nunez as well as a monthly income under terms approved Monday by Cook County Associate Judge **Michael C. Zissman**, said her attorney, **Mark McNabola** of Cogan & McNabola.

Nunez, 48, had entered the hospital for surgery to alleviate sleep apnea in February 1989, McNabola said. Three days after a tracheotomy was performed, Nunez's tube clogged allegedly because of inadequate monitoring by the nursing staff, he said. The lack of oxygen led to anoxia and brain damage in Nunez, who remains in a persistent vegetative state at Oak Forest Hospital, McNabola said. The settlement guarantees at least \$3.67 million and could provide as much as \$6.84 million over 20 years, McNabola said. The family is satisfied that Nunez will be cared for the rest of her life and that the settlement avoids the uncertainty inherent in a jury trial, McNabola added. **David R. Barry Jr.** of Bollinger, Ruberry & Garvey represented the hospital. *Nunez v. University of Illinois Hospital*, No. 89 L 8332.