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B'klyn Brothers Awarded \$4.4M in Mother's Death

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A State Supreme Court jury has awarded \$4.4 million to four Brooklyn brothers whose mother bled to death in childbirth seven years ago at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center.

On Thursday, a Brooklyn jury found that the woman, Sharon Nelson, 37, died because of errors made by hospital staff and by her physicians from Central Brooklyn Medical Group H.I.P., which stands for Health Insurance Plan of New York.

According to the family's lawyer, Nelson, who worked for the city's Human Resources Administration, died an hour after giving birth to her fourth son on March 9, 1984.

Doctors from H.I.P. had earlier detected a medical condition that indicated she should have had a Cesarean section, but then misread a diagnostic test and told her she could have a normal vaginal delivery, said

the lawyer, Thomas A. Moore. Further, when she was admitted to the hospital in labor, he said, her H.I.P. doctor was unable to be there. Instead, a doctor unfamiliar with her medical history began to deliver the baby.

Nelson's placenta ruptured, she began hemorrhaging and soon stopped breathing, Moore said. The doctors then attempted an emergency C-section, he said.

But an anesthesiologist at Brookdale failed to properly insert a breathing tube in Nelson's windpipe, and, before the doctor could re-insert it, she went into cardiac arrest, Moore said.

Nelson was divorced and engaged to marry the father of the youngest child when she died. Her four children are now aged 25, 17, 10 and 7.

Hospital spokeswoman Rhea Finkelstein said hospital officials would not comment.

Michael Sonders, the lawyer for H.I.P., said the group has not yet decided whether to appeal.