

# DAILY NEWS

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## Hosp loses suit To pay 1.5M in cardiac death

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A Queens woman whose mother died five hours after heart-attack symptoms were misdiagnosed at Woodhull Hospital has been awarded \$1.5 million in a wrongful death suit.

Norman Katz, a spokesman for the Health and Hospitals Corp., said yesterday the city has not decided whether to appeal.

A four-man, two-woman jury returned its verdict late Friday in Brooklyn Supreme Court.

Attorney Judy Livingston

said Michelle Facilla, 37, of Ridgewood, Queens, went to the emergency room at Woodhull on April 1, 1988. She complained of pain originating from the middle of her chest and radiating to the neck, jaw and arms.

"The symptoms would have been recognized by most lay people as clear-cut warning signs of a heart attack," said Livingston, who represented Facilla's only child, Renee, 21.

While there, Facilla was given an electrocardiogram. The results showed that she should have been hospitalized immediately, said Livingston.

Instead, Dr. Kenneth Klausman told Facilla the pain was the result of a respiratory problem and sent her home with Alupent, a medication for bronchitis that can have dangerous side effects for people with cardiac conditions, Livingston said.

Facilla left Woodhull and decided to go to Brooklyn Hospital, where her family physician was affiliated. Before going, her condition worsened and she called 911. The ambulance took her back to Woodhull, where she was pronounced dead from cardiac arrest.