

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malpractice verdict: \$42.9M

PHILADELPHIA A Philadelphia Common Pleas Court jury on Friday awarded a \$42.9 million verdict against Penn Medicine in a medical malpractice case involving a girl born prematurely who then developed cerebral palsy.

Phinees Fortson was born at 1 pound, 13 ounces on July 4, 2007 — two days after her mother, Ebony Harris, had sought treatment at Chestnut Hill Hospital for pelvic pressure but was sent home without needed steroids that would have helped the unborn child's brain and lungs, said lawyer Tom Kline, who represented the now-6-year-old girl.

Doris Chou, who worked for Penn Medicine at Chestnut Hill Hospital, and the trustees of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

— Robert Moran

The defendants were Dr.