

## **Settlement Reached in Lawsuit Against Memorial Medical Center**

**Las Cruces, New Mexico** (March xx, 2012) -- Memorial Medical Center (MMC) and the family of Joseph Mendoza have reached a settlement in a lawsuit concerning Mr. Mendoza's treatment in the MMC Emergency Department in 2008. Mr. Mendoza visited the MMC Emergency Department on June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup> of 2008. On his second visit, and before being seen by an Emergency Department physician, Mr. Mendoza suffered respiratory arrest in the Imaging Department from a rare medical condition called epiglottitis, which can cause a person's airway to close. Mr. Mendoza suffered irreversible brain damage. The monetary terms of the settlement are confidential and will not be released, and by agreeing to the settlement, MMC has not admitted to any fault or wrongdoing related to this case. As part of the settlement, MMC has agreed to a review of its processes and policies in the Emergency Department, and to host an annual educational symposium for a period of five years, for its Emergency Department doctors and nurses, named the Joseph Mendoza Emergency Department Symposium.