On behalf of the Leadership Team at CaroMont Health, we want you to be among the first to hear the outcome of the lawsuit that had been filed against our health system and a few members of our provider family.

The matter involves a patient who claims she suffered brain damage due to an inappropriate dose of anesthesia during a routine surgical procedure. The patient, a former physician who worked in our health system, named as defendants CaroMont Health, Gaston Memorial Hospital, Gaston Anesthesia Associates and several individuals involved in her care.

We are pleased to report that today, the trial went in favor of all the defendants. The jury rejected the patient’s claim that her alleged injuries were caused by negligence or substandard care. We are grateful for the verdict, which confirms what we have known all along: that proper procedures were followed and the patient received the best possible care. If the patient truly suffers from the impairment she alleges, it was not caused by the improper administration of her anesthesia or her follow-up care.

Putting a patient under anesthesia always presents some risk. Despite carefully following standard protocols, some patients can have an adverse reaction for any number of reasons. We are pleased the jury recognized that any alleged impairment this patient may have, though unfortunate, is not a consequence of the care she received at our hospital.

CaroMont Health has an outstanding record of providing quality care, and the well-being of every patient is and always will be our number one focus. We have the utmost confidence in Gaston Anesthesia Associates and the other caregivers involved in this episode, and we look forward to them continuing to serve the members of this community.

If you or anyone else has questions about this lawsuit, please direct them to Maria Long, our Chief Legal Officer, at 704.834.4880.

Douglas R. Luckett
President and CEO
CaroMont Health

W. Harry Caulfield, MD, FACS
Surgery Service Line Physician Administrator
CaroMont Health
Q: Why do you think the jury found in favor of the defendants?
A: The verdict confirms what we have known all along: that proper procedures were followed and the patient received the best possible care. If the patient truly suffers from the impairment she alleges, it was not caused by the improper administration of her anesthesia or her follow-up care.

Q: But didn’t something have to have gone wrong for the patient to have the complications she claims?
A: Putting a patient under anesthesia always presents some risk; despite carefully following standard protocols, some patients can have an adverse reaction for any number of reasons. We are pleased the jury found that any alleged impairment from which the patient may be suffering in no way reflects the quality of care delivered at our hospital.

Q: Despite this verdict, should patients be concerned about the care they may receive at CaroMont Health facilities?
A: CaroMont Health has an outstanding record of providing quality care, and the well-being of every patient is and always will be our number one focus. Our medical professionals employ the best practices in the health care industry to ensure the best possible care is delivered.

Q: What about the doctors and nurses involved? Will they be allowed to continue caring for patients at CaroMont Health?
A: We continue to have the utmost confidence in Gaston Anesthesia Associates and the other caregivers involved in this episode, and we look forward to them continuing to serve the members of this community. The professionals involved performed their duties with an unwavering commitment to quality patient care, and each is eager to return to serving their neighbors.

Q: Should people be concerned that the patient in question was herself a doctor who worked in our health system? What does that say about the confidence people should have in CaroMont Health and its affiliates?
A: Doctors can be patients, too, and they also may be at risk of an adverse reaction to anesthesia even when established protocols are carefully followed. Our medical professionals employ the best practices in the health care industry to ensure the best possible care is delivered to all our patients.