

## A message from Frank V. Sacco, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer

Good day,

When a child is in distress and in the hospital, it can be frightening and heart-wrenching – even for an experienced medical professional. When one of our own mother/baby nurses was put to the test, The Memorial Experience she believes in and promotes came through for her. Her glowing thank-you letter tells the story.

Thank you,



Dear Mr. Sacco,

I am a mother/baby nurse at Memorial Regional Hospital and I want to say thank you to everyone at Memorial Regional Hospital and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital who has taken part in caring for me, my baby boy, Julian, and our family.

Our Story:

We had a wonderful labor and delivery, but about 34 hours after Julian was born, his belly had swollen from 33 cm to 38 cm. He was immediately transferred to NICU by Dr. McIntyre (who I have to say is an amazing doctor who answered all our questions no matter how big or small) and was there for an entire week. It was the scariest week of my life since we had no idea what was wrong. Julian had not fed other than right after birth; he began spitting up colostrum and mucus and also threw up bile – a bad sign. The NICU took

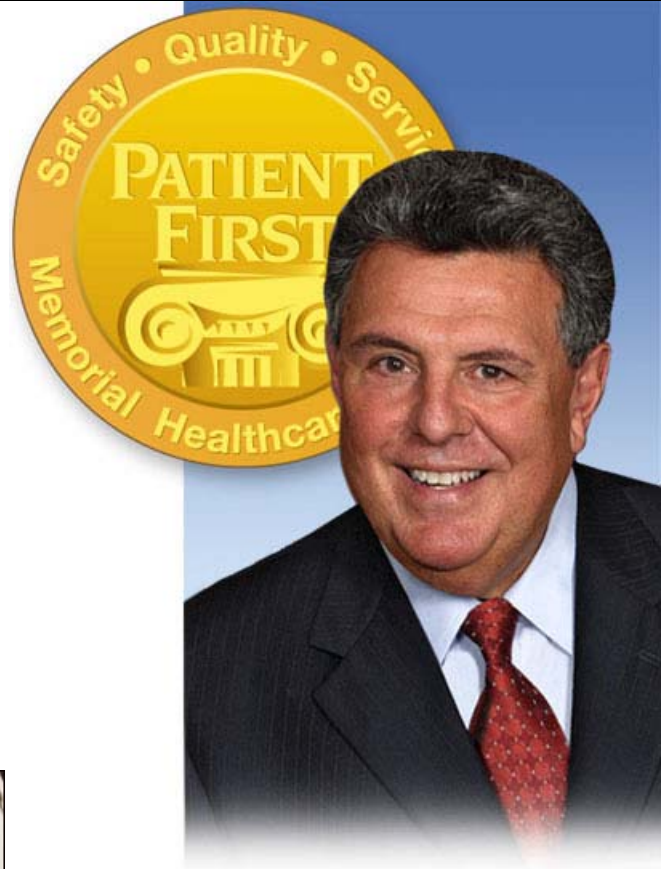


Gretel & Julian

WONDERFUL care of him and kept me updated of every little thing. I have a special empathy for my patients now and I appreciate the experience, but do not wish it on anyone.

While in the NICU, the wonderful Dr. Long (a pediatric surgeon) correctly diagnosed Julian's Hirschsprung's disease (a disease of the colon that can cause severe constipation and block the absorption of nutrients). Luckily I am a mother/baby nurse and was able to bring Julian home to care for him. I want to say thanks to all the staff that helped me through this crazy time. My respect for them has grown and I truly believe what I tell my patients every day: I deliver at Memorial Regional Hospital for the NICU! I always prayed I wouldn't need it, but since I did, I am thankful for ever single one of you. You are all amazing people and make a huge difference in every family you come in contact with.

Julian just had his pull-through surgery to remove the affected intestine and that should be the cure. Julian did great and I LOVED the care we received before, during and after surgery. Everyone was amazing.



Thanks so much for all the support!

Gretel

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