

Some of you may have heard that we have unfortunately experienced three recent sedation/anesthesia deaths in dental offices. We want to share with you the articles and links to the stories regarding the three children that died in the states of California, Texas and Virginia. We want to keep all of you in the loop regarding each incident and its respective media coverage.

Given these recent events, we have finalized a media holding statement regarding the most recent VCU anesthesia incident that you are welcome to use as appropriate. We have included the statement in its entirety, but feel free to use what is most applicable in your particular circumstance or situation:

**The health, safety and welfare of children is a top priority of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). Our deepest condolences go out to the family of the young patient who died on Tuesday at the Virginia Commonwealth University Dental Clinic in Richmond, Virginia.**

**Deaths due to sedation and/or anesthesia are extremely rare. The AAPD has guidelines in place that are co-endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics which reflect the highest safety measures for children undergoing sedation and/or anesthesia. It is paramount that every health provider discuss the risks and benefits of anesthesia with parents and care givers regarding the need for anesthesia services.**

**The AAPD supports state regulations that limit the practice of deep sedation and general anesthesia to qualified, appropriately trained individuals.**

As always, we will keep you apprised of further developments.

Please review the following links to the stories that related to the past deaths of the young patients.

## **Richmond, Virginia Anesthesia Death – Media Coverage**

**Mother lacks answers in son's death** – Richmond Times-Dispatch – May 13, 2010

[http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/article/VCUU13\\_20100512-231601/344194/](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/article/VCUU13_20100512-231601/344194/)

**UPDATE: VCU investigating 'incident' involving child at dental clinic** – Richmond Times-Dispatch – May 13, 2009

[http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/article/vcu\\_investigating\\_incident\\_involving\\_child\\_at\\_dental\\_clinic/343923/](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/article/vcu_investigating_incident_involving_child_at_dental_clinic/343923/)

**Mom says boy dies during dental treatment in Va.** – WTOP (103.5 FM) – May 13, 2010

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=600&sid=1956323>

**VCU Investigating Death At Dental Clinic**—WRIC Channel 8 – May 12, 2010

<http://www.wric.com/Global/story.asp?S=12470212>

**Family seeks answers in death of 6-year-old boy at VCU-- WWBT Channel 2 (NBC) – May 12, 2010**

<http://www.nbc12.com/Global/story.asp?S=12468562>

**Mom Says Boy Dies During Dental Treatment in Va – WJZ Channel 13 (CBS) – May 12, 2010**

<http://wjz.com/wireapnewsva/Mother.says.6.2.1691788.html>

**Child Death at VCU Medical Center – WTVR Channel 6 (CBS) – May 11, 2010**

<http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-child-died-anesthesia,0,6192705.story>

## **Riverside, California 2 Deaths – Media Coverage – March 2008**

**Dad sues after dental visit kills her – KABC Channel 7 (ABC) – March 13, 2008**

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local&id=6019045>

**Girl, 7, Apparently Choked On Tooth At The Dentist – Channel 2(CBS) – March 12, 2008**

<http://cbs2.com/local/Jacqueline.Martinez.Tooth.2.675846.html>

**Child chokes to death at a dentist's office – Times Record News – March 12, 2008**

<http://www.timesrecordnews.com/news/2008/mar/12/child-chokes-death-dentists-office/>

**Young girl dies during dental procedure – KABC Channel 7 (ABC) – March 10, 2008**

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local&id=6011739>

**Death of Riverside girl, 7, who choked on tooth ruled accidental--The Press-Enterprise – August 28, 2008**

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/sbcounty/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_E\\_tooth27.4a45822.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/sbcounty/stories/PE_News_Local_E_tooth27.4a45822.html)

## **San Antonio, TX Toddler Death – Media Coverage – December 2009**

**Lawsuit Filed In Toddler's Death** – KSAT Channel 12 (ABC) – May 4, 2010

<http://www.ksat.com/news/23451760/detail.html>

**Boy who died after dental procedure** – My San Antonio News – January 2, 2010

[http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local\\_news/Boy\\_who\\_died\\_after\\_dental\\_procedure\\_buried.html](http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/Boy_who_died_after_dental_procedure_buried.html)

**Follow up: Toddler's death raises questions about dental treatment** – WOAI TV – December 29, 2009

[http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local\\_news/Boy\\_who\\_died\\_after\\_dental\\_procedure\\_buried.html](http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/Boy_who_died_after_dental_procedure_buried.html)

**Toddler death under investigation** – WOAI TV – December 29, 2009

<http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Toddlers-death-under-investigation/9gTDab9YsUuXBBHcMgtXZQ.csp>

**Toddler dies of possible morphine overdose** – My San Antonio News – December 28, 2009

[http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/Toddler\\_dies\\_of\\_possible\\_morphine\\_overdose.html](http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/Toddler_dies_of_possible_morphine_overdose.html)