

## **Statement from Timothy J. Babineau, MD, Regarding Hasbro Children's Hospital**

Hasbro Children's Hospital is deeply committed to proactively and transparently addressing all patient care issues and challenges, with the goal of ensuring the highest quality and safest care for all of our patients.

Regrettably, on Monday, May 11, a surgeon began operating on the wrong part of the mouth of a patient undergoing oral surgery at Hasbro Children's Hospital. While the error was recognized during the surgery and the team was able to perform the correct procedure with good results, we acknowledged the error and have apologized to the patient and the family. The patient is in good condition and we do not anticipate any further complications related to this error.

Consistent with our proactive approach to addressing medical errors, we immediately began our own internal investigation into this issue. We have also reported the incident to the Department of Health.

Hasbro Children's Hospital has strong policies and procedures in place to minimize the risk of medical errors and has conducted extensive training with clinicians and physicians on these standards. Though we recognize that human error cannot always be avoided, these policies are in place to provide safeguards against such errors. Unfortunately, the preliminary investigation indicates that at least one of our standard policies was not followed; this type of behavior is not in keeping with Hasbro's own high standards and is not acceptable. Pending the results of a full investigation, we have made the decision to place both the surgeon and the surgical team involved on administrative leave.

While it is important that individual clinicians be held accountable for following Hasbro's established policies and procedures, ensuring high quality care is the responsibility of the entire institution. As this hospital's CEO, and with the full support of our Board of Trustees, I am personally dedicated to supporting clinicians with policies and procedures that enhance the quality of care, developing safeguards to protect against the possibility of human error and creating a culture of accountability in which every staff member – from medical assistants to our physician leaders recognizes the role they play in providing outstanding patient care.

Despite enormous efforts by medical professionals across the country, medical errors persist, with wrong site surgery remaining the number one adverse event reported to the Joint Commission, despite a decade of focus on this issue. We are engaged in the national discussion on how to prevent errors from reaching patients and will continue to work tirelessly to address that issue here and bring our lessons learned to our colleagues across the country.

High quality, safe patient care is what our patients expect and, more importantly, it is what they deserve. Mindful of this fact, we have made patient safety and quality our top priority at Rhode Island Hospital and we remain 100% committed to making our institution among the safest in the nation.