Purpose: To describe and standardize the procedure for managing dental injury that occurs during anesthesia.

I. Policy Statement

The Department of Anesthesia Critical Care and Pain Medicine has approved the following guidelines.

II. Guidelines

1. The attending anesthesiologist must write a note in the medical record (within the anesthesia record is adequate) describing the cause, nature and extent of the injury. Any dental appliance that is injured or accidentally removed must be kept and returned to the patient.

2. The anesthesia team must complete a computerized Incident Report (RL6 Patient Safety and Feedback Reporting System). This will alert the Department of Health Care Quality at BIDMC.

3. The patient and/or patient’s family should be told about the injury at the earliest possible time. The patient should be advised to call Patient Relations at 617 632 0364 so the incident can be looked into by the Department of Health Care Quality. The patient/family should NOT be promised that the cost of the repair will be reimbursed.

4. The case should be entered into the anesthesia QA database.

Policy Owner: QI division: Stephen Pratt MD: Sugantha Sundar MD

Review Date: September 2001
Review Date: October 2004
Review Date: March 2009
Review Date: May 2013
Review Date: December 2015
Review Due: December 2018