The Joint Commission: Safe Use of Opioids in Hospitals

“While opioid use is generally safe for most patients, opioid analgesics may be associated with adverse effects, the most serious effect being respiratory depression, which is generally preceded by sedation.”

Saftey Event Am J 96(8) (2012)

- Fifty percent of Code Blue events involve patients receiving opioid analgesia.
- Unrecognized postoperative respiratory failure that results in cardiopulmonary arrest (CPA) is a daily occurrence at healthcare facilities across the United States.
- Since CPA deaths in adult and pediatric brain tumor patients in the majority of cases, these events have been termed “Failure to Rescue” (FTR). FTR is the first and third most common patient-safety related adverse events affecting the Medicare population in U.S. hospitals, accounting for 113 events per 1,000 at-risk patient admissions.

As Amanda’s father asks:

"The answer is yes, it would have...every day since I found my daughter, Leah, dead in her bed, I have wondered how much could have been saved?

Amanda Abbiehl

leah katherine coufal

Justin Mcicalzi

Louise Bata

Amanda’s parents talk about the fears all parents have before their child’s surgery: our worst death: the incidents leading to her daughter’s death.

Failed to rescue

As parents of a teenage daughter, our worst fear was that something would go wrong before, during, or after surgery, that our daughter would go into a hospital with an addiction, as her mother had, and come out, never to return. As parents of a teenage daughter, our worst fear was that something would go wrong before, during, or after surgery, that our daughter would go into a hospital with an addiction, as her mother had, and come out, never to return.

As Amanda’s father asks:

"The answer is yes, it would have...every day since I found my daughter, Leah, dead in her bed, I have wondered how much could have been saved?

Amanda Abbiehl

leah katherine coufal

Justin Mcicalzi

Louise Bata

Amanda’s parents talk about the fears all parents have before their child’s surgery: our worst fear was that something would go wrong before, during, or after surgery, that our daughter would go into a hospital with an addiction, as her mother had, and come out, never to return. As parents of a teenage daughter, our worst fear was that something would go wrong before, during, or after surgery, that our daughter would go into a hospital with an addiction, as her mother had, and come out, never to return.

As Amanda’s father asks:

"The answer is yes, it would have...every day since I found my daughter, Leah, dead in her bed, I have wondered how much could have been saved?

Amanda Abbiehl

leah katherine coufal

Justin Mcicalzi

Louise Bata

Amanda’s parents talk about the fears all parents have before their child’s surgery: our worst fear was that something would go wrong before, during, or after surgery, that our daughter would go into a hospital with an addiction, as her mother had, and come out, never to return. As parents of a teenage daughter, our worst fear was that something would go wrong before, during, or after surgery, that our daughter would go into a hospital with an addiction, as her mother had, and come out, never to return. As parents of a teenage daughter, our worst fear was that something would go wrong before, during, or after surgery, that our daughter would go into a hospital with an addiction, as her mother had, and come out, never to return.