



111 Michigan Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20010-2970
(202) 844-6000

**Statement from Children's National Medical Center
March 11, 2009**

This morning, a child fell into a wall vent in the parking garage at Children's National. The child was immediately taken to the emergency department to receive care. The care of the patient and the family is our number one priority. Because of patient privacy laws, we cannot release information about the child, at this time. Our team is fully engaged in the care and treatment of the patient and the family.

Children's takes this incident extremely seriously and we are committed to understanding how this incident could have occurred and to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

Children's notified District authorities immediately after the incident was reported. The circumstances surrounding this event are under investigation. There is a process in place to routinely inspect our facilities and report findings. If the current review determines that these procedures need to be modified, we will do so immediately.

Children's remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety for our patients and families.



NOTE - THIS VERSION WAS SENT to Channel 9 on 3.18 at 4:30pm

Statement from Children's National Medical Center
Regarding Garage Incident on March 11, 2009

Children's National Medical Center has shared its concern about the incident last week. Our first priority remains with the patient and family while the patient recuperates at home from his injuries.

Despite a thorough investigation, it is not clear why the vent cover to the air shaft in the garage was off. However, within minutes of this incident being reported, our staff began a thorough inspection of our entire parking garage. No other vent covers were found to be missing. Nonetheless, our team acted quickly to reinforce all vent covers to ensure that nothing like this happens again.