

How Lagos hospital's negligence led to my son's death — Chimamanda Adichie

[Abisola Adigun](#) January 10, 2026



Renowned Nigerian author, [Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#), has alleged that medical negligence led to the death of her 21-month-old son, Nkanu Nnamdi, at a Lagos hospital.

Adichie said her son died following complications after he was sedated for medical procedures at Euracare Hospital on January 6, 2026.

The allegation was contained in a statement she authored and sent to family members and close friends, which was later confirmed by her media team to ARISE News.

According to the renowned writer, her family had been in Lagos for the Christmas holidays when her son developed what they initially thought was a cold, which later “turned into a very serious infection.”

“We were in Lagos for Christmas. Nkanu had what we first thought was just a cold, but soon turned into a very serious infection, and he was admitted to Atlantis Hospital,” she said.

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Adichie explained that her son was scheduled to travel to the United States on January 7, accompanied by medical doctors, adding that a team at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore was already on standby.

“He was to travel to the US the next day, January 7th, accompanied by travelling doctors. A team at Johns Hopkins was waiting to receive him in Baltimore,” she said.

She added that the medical team requested an MRI scan and a lumbar puncture test, prompting Atlantis Hospital to refer them to Euracare Hospital for the procedures.

“The Nigerian team had also decided to put in a ‘central line’ in preparation for Nkanu’s flight,” Adichie stated.

According to her, her son was sedated with propofol to prevent movement during the procedures, but was allegedly not properly monitored afterward.

"I was waiting just outside the theatre. I saw people, including Dr M, rushing into the theatre and immediately knew something had happened," she said.

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Adichie disclosed that she was later informed that her son had been administered an excessive dose of propofol by the anaesthesiologist.

"A short time later, Dr M came out and told me Nkanu had been given too much propofol by the anaesthesiologist, had become unresponsive and was quickly resuscitated," she said.

She added that her son was subsequently placed on a ventilator, intubated and admitted to the intensive care unit, where his condition deteriorated.

"But suddenly, Nkanu was on a ventilator; he was intubated and placed in the ICU. The next thing I heard was that he had seizures. Cardiac arrest. Some hours later, Nkanu was gone," Adichie said.

She further alleged that her son was never properly monitored after sedation and described the actions of the anaesthesiologist as "criminally negligent."

"It turns out that Nkanu was never monitored after being given too much propofol.

"How can you sedate a sick child and neglect to monitor him?" She said.

She also alleged that the anaesthesiologist later switched off her son's oxygen before transferring him to the ICU, describing the conduct as careless.

"The anaesthesiologist was criminally negligent. He was fatally casual and careless with the precious life of a child. No proper protocol was followed," she added.

Adichie said her son was brought in "sick but stable" for what she described as basic medical procedures.

"We brought in a child who was unwell but stable and scheduled to travel the next day, and suddenly our beautiful little boy was gone forever," she said, adding, "I will never survive the loss of my child."

She also claimed that the family later learned of previous incidents involving the same anaesthesiologist.

"We have now heard about two previous cases of this same anaesthesiologist overdosing children.

"Why did Euracare allow him to keep working?" she asked, adding, "This must never happen to another child."

However, in a statement reported by TheCable, Euracare Hospital expressed sympathy to Adichie and her family over the death of her son, describing the loss as "profound and unimaginable."

The hospital said some reports surrounding the incident contained inaccuracies and disclosed that it had launched an internal investigation into the allegations.

"Euracare Hospital expresses its deepest condolences to the family over this profound and unimaginable loss," the statement said, adding that an internal probe had commenced following the allegations of negligence.