



TO: Members, Assembly Committee on Health

**FROM: Lisa Maurer, MD, President
Wisconsin Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians**

DATE: January 25, 2018

RE: Assembly Bill 871 – MA Intensive Care Coordination

Wisconsin Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians (WACEP) represents more than 500 physicians statewide who have advanced training in Emergency Medicine.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and encourage your support for the Intensive Care Coordination envisioned by AB 871, with one caveat:

We ask that AB 871 be amended to specifically allow a private emergency physician group to apply to participate in the reimbursement program just as hospitals and health systems may apply.

We agree that care coordination efforts designed to reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization among Medicaid participants is an excellent policy initiative and we applaud this effort, and wish only to enhance it by adding the potential for private emergency physician groups to be involved.

In some hospitals, all of the emergency department physicians are hospital employees, therefore such a hospital or system applying to participate in the care coordination program will necessarily include the hospital's emergency physicians. However, about 45% of all emergency physicians in Wisconsin are employed in private groups who contract with hospitals to provide the hospital's emergency medical services; in other words, many hospitals – including some of those with the highest Medicaid populations – do not employ their own emergency physicians. In these contracted settings, we believe the emergency physician group may also be an appropriate entity to apply for and manage the care coordination program.

In making this suggestion, we envision a private physician group being held to the same application and management criteria as hospitals and health systems. We simply request that those private emergency physician groups be given an equal opportunity to apply should they be interested, and feel they are capable of doing so.