

ACEP Council - Setting Direction for EM



*Jeff Pothof, MD, FACEP
President's Message, November 2019*

Dear Wisconsin Emergency Physicians,

I wanted to use this month's column to update you on our participation in the 2019 Annual ACEP Council Meeting that occurred late last month.

For those that may not be aware ACEP's annual council meeting is the process by which the college determines both its leaders for the next year as well as the direction of the college by listening to and adopting resolutions that direct the board of directors as to what they should be committing resources to and working on. The council is made up of councilors from every state. Each state has councilors allocated based on total state chapter members. The council also includes representation from the college's sections as well as EMRA.

This year our Wisconsin Chapter co-authored two resolutions. The first resolution was aimed at increasing awareness of implicit bias among physicians and requiring ACEP to create and make available online implicit bias training free to all ACEP members. The second resolution we co-authored was aimed at requiring ACEP to develop a policy statement in favor of physician salary and benefit package equity and transparency. Both resolutions were adopted by the council. [Read more.](#)

Medicaid Copayment, Coming to Your ED February 2020

*Lisa Maurer, MD
WACEP Legislative Chair*

Wisconsin is one of many states that has received federal approval to change our Medicaid program, called a waiver project, in some substantial ways that will affect our patients in the emergency department.

There are several characteristics of the changes that will affect our patients. Namely, there will be a new work requirement for some Medicaid enrollees in order to maintain their eligibility for coverage, new Medicaid coverage for inpatient substance use disorder treatment, and some mandatory screening for substance abuse disorders. Most impactful for our patients and workflow, the waiver also contains a new potential for copayment for Medicaid patients for ED visits. As these new laws are implemented in Spring of 2020, it is our responsibility as advocates for our patients to ensure that we maintain protections under the Prudent Layperson Standard.

This waiver project starts a new \$8 copay for ED patients who receive care in the ED for non-emergencies as of February 2020. This is not a new concept, whereby fourteen other states already charge copays to Medicaid enrollees who receive non-emergent care in the ED. A minority of states have even gotten federal approval to charge more than the historic maximum of \$8 copayment. The real risk to emergency patients lies in the variance among the states in how they define a "non-emergency," and what direction Wisconsin moves in this regard. Scarily, some states' Medicaid departments chose to define non-emergency based on final diagnosis. [Read more.](#)

HWZ Legislative and Political Update, December 2019

*AJ Wilson and Greg Hubbard
Hubbard Wilson & Zelenkova Government Relations*

The state legislature had its most active period thus far in the 2019-2020 legislative session during the fall months. Several bills of interest were introduced or saw action. Other bills continued to lay dormant.

AB 267/SB 249 creates an additional system of licensure for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), has received no legislative action. WACEP is registered opposed to this bill and there is no expectation it will be moving forward this session.

AB 329/SB 313 addresses the issue of "surprise billing" for patients brought to an out of network ER. This bill does not appear to be moving this session. Insurance interests have registered "undisclosed" but it is widely known that they oppose. WACEP should be sure it agrees with how the bill addresses the issue. Federal action is still a slight possibility. [Read more.](#)

Independent Groups Encouraged to Sign Specialty Coalition Surprise Billing Letter

A letter to Congressional leadership is circulating with an aim to obtain signatures from several hundred smaller and independent groups from various impacted specialties, providing maximal visual impact and local connections related to surprise billing. The turn-around is very quick with a planned deadline to sign on by mid-day on Thursday, December 5.

Please share notice of this effort with as many smaller and independent groups as possible. The more sign on, the more compelling in its impact. Each specialty is defining "smaller group" for themselves, since there's such variation on relative group sizes across specialties. For EM, ACEP is requesting groups that serve 10 hospitals or less to sign-on, which is consistent with the EM smaller group letter that went to the Hill in early September. Download, review and sign your group to the letter at bit.ly/SmallIndGrpLetter.

Emergency Medicine: The Road Less Traveled

Registration is now open for WACEP's 2020 Spring Symposium & 28th Annual EM Research Forum

Mark your calendars and plan to join Wisconsin ACEP for the 2020 Spring Symposium, April 15-16, 2020 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. The conference will offer a variety of timely updates and rapid-fire educational sessions and will offer plenty of networking and social opportunities. [Learn more and register today.](#) Don't forget to book your hotel room by calling the Marriott at 888-745-2032 and requesting the Wisconsin Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians room block.

Doctor Day is January 29 - Registration is Open!

Wisconsin's Doctor Day is one of the largest events of its kind across the country and serves as the premier advocacy event for physicians in our state. Nearly 500 physicians and medical students representing nearly every medical specialty participate in this annual event for an opportunity to learn the legislative process first-hand, and to make their voices heard at the State Capitol.

Doctor Day participants will be briefed on priority issues, hear from keynote speakers including Charles Franklin, PhD, nationally recognized government relations scholar and director of the Marquette Law School Poll, and will be scheduled for group visits with their legislators.

Wisconsin ACEP will again be a sponsor/host of Doctor Day, and will hold a policy primer meetup the night before. Plan to join your emergency medicine colleagues at Doctor Day 2020. [Learn more and sign up today.](#)

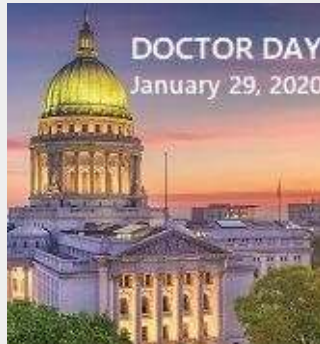
Dec. 11 Webinar - Identifying Effective Solutions: Reducing Psychiatric Boarding in Emergency Rooms

Make plans to participate in a webinar co-hosted by the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, and the Coalition on Psychiatric Emergencies to identify how communities and emergency departments collaborate on the issue of Psychiatric Boarding in the Emergency Department. [Learn more and register.](#)

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