



## Wisconsin Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians

### August 2016 e-Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Bobby Redwood, MD, MPH**



Dear Wisconsin ACEP Members,

August is national immunization awareness month and a great opportunity to discuss the role that Wisconsin emergency physicians play in immunization care.

We all know that every emergency is a failure of prevention, so some careful planning now can help us stave off the flood of infectious diseases that is bound to hit our ED's during the winter months.

While the southern US is scrambling to deal with Zika, we northerners already know who our enemy will be this winter: influenza. Wisconsin department of health services releases weekly influenza reports and rates this week remain low in all regions of Wisconsin. Typically our influenza numbers start to skyrocket in the second week of November and don't level off again until the second week of May. That's seven months of headaches, body aches, and pediatric fevers that we would rather not have end up on our doorstep. In the 2015-2016 flu season, Wisconsin saw 5,136 cases of influenza...and that's just the cases that were confirmed.

So let's talk prevention! For those vaccine geeks out there, the trivalent vaccines for use in the 2016-2017 influenza season will contain the following virus-like strains: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1); A/Hong Kong/4801/2014, and B/Brisbane/60/2008. No one knows (yet) what strains the 2017-2018 vaccine will contain...let's hope its not called A/Wisconsin/2016. We'll find out soon enough, CDC expects the 2016-2017 vaccine to available later this month for at-risk populations and available for all populations by the first week of September.

On your next shift, take some time to educate your patients about the importance of getting their flu shot early. How about celebrating August by taking the WACEP national immunization awareness month challenge: try to educate one patient in each of the following age groups about the importance of vaccination in general:

- Parents: Emphasize the important role vaccines play in protecting their child's health;
- College students: Remind them to talk to their healthcare professional about any vaccines they may need for school entry;
- Adults, especially older adults and adults with chronic conditions: When appropriate, encourage vaccines for shingles, pertussis, pneumococcus, and flu;
- Pregnant women: Talk about getting vaccinated to protect newborns from diseases like pertussis and flu;
- Everyone: Let Wisconsinites know that the next flu season is only a few months away.

Bobby Redwood, M.D., M.P.H.

President, Wisconsin Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians

## MEB APPROVES OPIOID PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES

The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) approved best practice guidelines for opioid prescribing at its monthly meeting in Madison in July. This action is a result of Wisconsin State Assembly Rep. John Nygren's HOPE legislative package; 2015 Act 269 granted the MEB authority to post the guidelines, which are inspired by those already in place from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state's Worker's Compensation program.

While the guidelines are not mandatory practice parameters, they are expected to assist physicians with making more informed decisions about their prescribing practices. [Click here to view the guidelines.](#)

The MEB also moved closer to finalizing new continuing medical education (CME) rules that will eventually require physicians to include coursework on the new guidelines as part of their 30 hours per biennium requirement. The likely outcome of this CME-related rule will be:

- All physicians who have a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number will be required to take two credits of CME in prescribing-related areas as part of their biennial 30-credit total.
- This requirement will take effect for the next two complete CME reporting cycles (essentially for 2017-2019 and then again for 2019-2021).
- The first time a physician satisfies that two-credit requirement, the CME will need to include information on the new opioid prescribing guidelines. (It is likely the Wisconsin Medical Society's opioid prescribing webinar series, which is now available on-demand, will be grandfathered in as satisfying the guidelines-related subject matter requirement.)
- The second time the physician satisfies the two-credit requirement, it can be in the arena of "responsible controlled substances prescribing."
- This requirement COULD end after two CME cycles-it will depend on the status of the opioid crisis and whether or not the MEB continues the requirement for future cycles.

The MEB is expected to finalize these requirements at its meeting later this month.

## **ACEP SEEKS POLICY COMMENTS**

### ***Draft Clinical Policy on Adult Psychiatric Patients***

An ACEP draft clinical policy is in the review stage and is open for comments.

Please [click here](#) to review the draft "Clinical Policy: Critical Issues in the Diagnosis and Management of the Adult Psychiatric Patient in the Emergency Department" and submit your comments. The open comment period extends through September 19, 2016.

Questions may be directed to Rhonda Whitson, RHIA, ACEP Clinical Practice Manager, at [rwhitson@acep.org](mailto:rwhitson@acep.org).

## **WACEP LISTENING TOUR VISITS EAU CLAIRE**

### ***Join us on August 30, 2016***

Join the Wisconsin Chapter, ACEP for dinner on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 in Eau Claire! [Learn more and register today!](#)

WACEP's leadership is committed to representing the interests and needs of emergency physicians throughout Wisconsin. Meet us on our Listening Tour and let us know what is important to you, your patients and the specialty.

Additional sessions that will soon be scheduled in other parts of the state, so stay tuned and plan to join us! Your participation on the Listening Tour will help prioritize Chapter activities and efforts.

## **THE STATE OF THE HEALTH OF MILWAUKEE**

### ***Join Mayor Barrett for this Newsmaker Event on September 6, 2016***

Eighty years ago, Milwaukee was the healthiest city in the country. Now, it's among the unhealthiest in the state. What happened?

Join Mayor Tom Barrett and Commissioner of Health Bevan Baker on Tuesday, September 6 for a wide-ranging discussion on the state of health of Wisconsin's largest city, and how it impacts the rest of the state. They'll outline what city officials and other leaders are doing to decrease disparities and reduce infant mortality rates, and examine why these rates, and others, including obesity, are higher in Milwaukee. Wisconsin Health News Editor Tim Stumm will moderate this event at the Milwaukee Athletic Club. [Learn more and register.](#)

## **WACEP MEET-UP IN VEGAS - OCTOBER 17!**

Planning to attend ACEP's 2016 Scientific Assembly in Las Vegas? WACEP is coordinating a Wisconsin meet-up the evening of Monday, October 17th. Save-the-date and plan to connect for our mix-n-mingle with Wisconsin colleagues. Stay tuned for details!

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