

Final Objectives 2022-23

Federal Government Affairs

Chair: Bradley J. Uren, MD, FACEP

Board Liaison: Aisha T. Terry, MD, MPH, FACEP

Staff Liaison: Laura Wooster, MPH

1. Analyze and recommend legislative and regulatory priorities for the remainder of the Second Session of the 117th Congress and the First Session of the 118th Congress.
2. Support and advocate for regulatory and legislative solutions on health care staffing shortages and ED boarding, with a particular emphasis on psychiatric boarding.
3. Explore opportunities at the federal level to examine the impacts of health care consolidation both on the provider side and the insurer side on emergency physicians and identify potential federal strategies to address related challenges.
4. Actively engage in the regulatory process for the implementation of the “No Surprises Act” working to ensure that the law is implemented in a way that will protect patients as well as reimburse providers appropriately for services rendered. Be aware of issues related to the NSA that may require additional legislative intervention. Collaborate with content experts from the Reimbursement Committee and State Legislative/Regulatory Committee. (Federal Government Affairs is the lead committee.)
5. Monitor and support legislative and regulatory efforts to address racial and social disparities and inequities in the health care system.
6. Continue federal efforts to promote emergency physician practice rights and protections, as well as educating federal lawmakers and regulators about the difference in training between emergency physicians and mid-level providers who participate in the emergency physician-led team.
7. Support ACEP efforts to develop targeted federal legislation to address challenges identified by emergency medicine workforce projections, such as federal designation of emergency medicine health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) and relocation/relicensure incentives and benefits to help recruit EPs and spouses/partners to help address EM shortages in rural and underserved communities.
8. Continue efforts to improve safe working conditions in the emergency department.
9. Support and advocate for legislative and regulatory relief that would protect physicians from potential Medicare reimbursement cuts in 2023 and beyond via a more stable and fair physician payment system.
10. Continue to monitor the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)’s actions to address the ongoing issue of drug shortages, including any follow up to its 2019 report to Congress entitled *Drug Shortages: Root Causes and Potential Solutions*, and any lessons learned from shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic.
11. Identify new opportunities to work with federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, and Indian Health Services, etc.
12. Develop and assess potential innovative approaches to improving the way care is delivered and reimbursed in rural areas, with the goal of improving patient access to emergency department services in these areas. This includes overseeing the implementation of the Medicare rural emergency hospital (REH) designation. Collaborate with content experts from other committees and task forces as needed.
13. Continue to develop and assess potential legislative ideas to address firearm safety and injury prevention.
14. Evaluate the effectiveness of emergency telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic to determine the appropriate use of such services going forward and the corresponding regulatory and reimbursement policies that are necessary.

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15. Continue to support advocacy efforts on rescheduling of cannabis to facilitate well-controlled studies of cannabis and related cannabinoids for medical use in patients as directed in Amended Resolution 36(18) ACEP Policy Related to Medical Cannabis.
16. Continue efforts to address Amended Resolution 35(19) Prudent Layperson Visit Downcoding through federal advocacy actions.
17. Continue advocating for emergency medicine needs to deal with pandemic response and develop and propose federal legislation and regulatory proposals based on lessons learned in the pandemic that will lessen obstacles for emergency physicians and patients in future pandemics or disasters and provide emergency physicians with the upfront financial resources and protection they need to immediately be prepared to respond.
18. Serve as a resource to the State Legislative/Regulatory Committee to provide guidance to state chapters regarding advocacy on state laws addressing out-of-network/balance billing considering federal action related to the No Surprises Act. (State Legislative/Regulatory is the lead committee.)
19. Work with the Reimbursement Committee to evaluate the desirability and feasibility of passing legislation allowing competing physicians to collectively bargain with health insurers and governmental agencies over rates and terms for physician services. (Federal Government Affairs lead committee.)