

American College of Emergency Physicians
Observation Medicine Section Meeting - Virtual
ACEP23
October 10, 2023
MINUTES

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE SECTION CHAIR AND ARE PENDING APPROVAL BY THE OBSERVATION MEDICINE SECTION AT THE ACEP24 MEETING. ANY CHANGES WILL APPEAR IN THE MINUTES OF THAT MEETING.

Participants

Section members participating for all or part of the meeting included: Margarita Pena, MD, FACEP, chair; Christopher Caspers, MD, FACEP, immediate past chair; Anthony Rosania, MD, FACEP, chair-elect; David Meguerdichian, MD, FACEP, secretary; George Hughes, MD, alternate councilor; Sharon Mace, MD, FACEP, substitute councilor; Arthur Au, MD; William Baker, MD, FACEP; Christopher Baugh, MD, MBA, FACEP; Abhi Chandra, MD, FACEP; Carol Clark, MD, FACEP; Leticia Flores, MD; Mike Granovsky, MD, FACEP; George Hughes, MD; James Humble, MD; Eustace Lashley, MD, FACEP; Joe Lykins, MD; Vinay Mikkilineni, MD; Sina Mostaghimi, MD; Dave Portelli, MD, FACEP; Mike Ross, MD, FACEP; Steven Sattler, DO, FACEP; Charles Sierzant, MD, FACEP; Todd Taylor, MD, FACEP; Vaishal Tolia, MD, FACEP; Mike Turturro, MD, FACEP; Carissa Tyo, MD, FACEP; Alan You, MD.

Others participating for all or part of the meeting included: James Shoemaker, MD, FACEP, Board liaison; Sandra M. Schneider, MD, FACEP, ACEP staff liaison; Julie Wassom, ACEP staff; Norberto Alberto, PharmD, AstraZeneca; DeeDee Crockett, MBA, AstraZeneca; Durran Taylor, PharmD, AstraZeneca; Jason Varghese, PharmD, AstraZeneca; Christine Venuti, MD.

Agenda

Welcome
Councilor's update
Sponsor talk – AstraZeneca
Billing update – Dr. Mike Granovsky
Observation Policy Resource and Education Paper (PREP) update
OU accreditation initiative
Award ceremony – Lou Graff Award for Excellence in Observation Medicine to Dr. Mike Ross
MIPS 2024 update - Dr. Todd Taylor
Closing remarks

Major Points Discussed

Dr. Pena called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone who was attending both in person in Philadelphia and online virtually. The meeting was held virtually and later in the day this year to support greater attendance by section members. Dr. Pena remarked that there have been many challenges to emergency medicine as a specialty and to observation units including, but not limited to, staffing and boarding. She highlighted that there have been some notable wins this year including the extension of telehealth observation codes, due in part to the advocacy of ACEP.

Following welcoming remarks, Dr. Pena introduced Dr. Sharon Mace who served as the substitute councilor for the two-day Council meeting held before ACEP23. Dr. Mace provided details on how the meeting was structured along with some of the resolutions that were discussed. She specifically highlighted resolutions that passed that were aimed at mitigating competition for procedures between emergency medicine resident physicians and other learners, as well as one supporting the reimbursement of geriatric ED care processes—the latter co-sponsored in part by the Observation Medicine Section. All of the resolutions are posted on the ACEP website for those who are interested.

Dr. Pena then introduced Durran Taylor from the section meeting sponsor, AstraZeneca, who gave a presentation on “Management of Factor Xa Inhibitor-Related Acute Bleeding.” The talk discussed clinical trial and real-world evidence of Andexanet, which has been shown to restore FXa activity and restore thrombin generation in patients using apixaban and rivaroxaban with major bleeding.

Following the sponsored presentation, Dr. Mike Granovsky provided a brief, but comprehensive, review of the new changes to the reimbursement billing codes, especially those related to observation patients. These went into effect on January 1, 2023. The new codes allow for more focus on documentation to support the care of the patient and less on scoring for history and physical exam. Keys to documentation for observation care include an order, a plan, a medically appropriate history and physical exam, labs, studies, consults and a discharge note. Billing can be based on scoring by time; however, most will bill based on medical decision making. For further information, please refer to the attached slide deck or reach out to Dr. Granovsky at mgranovsky@logixhealth.com.

Following that presentation, Dr. Caspers provided an update on the forthcoming overhaul to the observation policy resource and education paper (PREP). This is the first update to this document in 10 years with content to include updates in behavioral health, geriatrics, oncology and telehealth within observation units. The completed document will be brought by Dr. Pena and Dr. Schneider to the ACEP Board of Directors for approval with a plan for publishing it shortly thereafter.

Dr. Pena went on to highlight other section business, including our initiative to create an ACEP observation unit accreditation process. She stated that the Board of Directors was enthusiastic about the proposal and cited a similar initiative put forth by the Geriatric Section that has since seen >200 EDs undergo and receive geriatric accreditation for their departments. The goal of this effort is to further establish emergency medicine as the leaders in observation care while improving care and standardizing guidelines. The section attendees were polled regarding their interest in accreditation of their observation units with seven voting yes, two voting no, and eight voting maybe. Dr. Pena also highlighted that the American Board of Emergency Medicine is interested in starting behavioral health specialization which could support efforts to create and standardize behavioral health observation units.

Dr. Pena went on to introduce Dr. Todd Taylor, who provided an update on MIPS for 2024. He also introduced the Emergency Medicine Data Institute (EMDI) that will bring insight and innovation to improve quality of care, transform practice management, and lead public and population health management. This new approach will also help with government compliance and operation at participating sites. It should be noted that through EMDI, individuals whose practice is predominantly or entirely observation may be able to report their quality measures for MIPS credit. If you are unaware, the MIPS program now has a 9% penalty (reduction) of MC payments for failing to report. In addition, MIPS will attach a “score” to each individual doctor that will carry with the physician if they change jobs (as MIPS payments/penalties are two years behind). If you are interested in exploring reporting through EMDI, contact ACEP staff member Dr. Pawan Goyal pgoyal@acep.org or Dr. Taylor toddtaylormd@gmail.com for more information.

Dr. Pena then honored Dr. Mike Ross with the “Lou Graff Award for Excellence in Observation Medicine,” created to honor an individual each year, nominated by the section or others in ACEP, who has been a trailblazer in observation medicine. Dr. Pena noted that Dr. Ross is one of the founding fathers of observation care and has been an amazing mentor to many in the field. Dr. Ross credited Dr. Graff for his success and highlighted much of the great work he accomplished at Emory. He accepted the award on behalf of observation patients everywhere and encouraged the group to be an advocate for these patients.

Following this award ceremony, Dr. Pena recognized the Observation Medicine Section secretary, Dr. David Meguerdichian, who put out a call for contributions to the forthcoming fall ACEP Observation Medicine Section newsletter. The submission for the newsletter may include information and editorial observation pieces on topics of interest to you and the section and should range from 1000-1500 words at max. Look for an email call for submissions from Dr. Meguerdichian through engagED following the conclusion of *ACEP23*.

Dr. Pena then announced that elections will be held next year for the positions of chair-elect, secretary, and alternate councilor. Contact Dr. Schneider sschneider@acep.org or Dr. Pena margarita.pena@ascension.org if you would like to be considered for any of these positions. Nominations are due by next summer after which a vote will be sent.

Dr. Pena concluded the meeting by inviting all members at ACEP to the on-site reception immediately following the call.

With no more business to discuss, the business meeting was adjourned.