A Newsletter for the Members of the New Mexico Chapter

Summer 208

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Resident's Corner
Sean Rooks, MD
PGY2 Resident Physician
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The seasons of life have a funny way of introducing their own unique challenges to them. As I reflect on my transition from intern year of residency at UNM to PGY-2 year, I can honestly say residency is shaping up to be some of the best and happiest years of my life. I'm starting to feel more comfortable in the Emergency Department, I'm enjoying my interactions with patients, my kids are old enough that we are having fun taking them on more adventures, the mountains are close by, and the weather is beautiful in Albuquerque.

Emergency Medicine at UNM certainly has its challenges, and I would be remiss if I didn't admit the work can wear you down at times. Most of our patients are some combination of poorly controlled chronic medical conditions, substance abuse, and/or social issues. It is easy to get bogged down in the frustrating aspects of dealing with these patients, a lot

of which can seem more like social work than medical care. In my mind, this frustration occurs when we as providers have expectations that don't meet patients where they are. By adjusting my expectations of a patient interaction, I am finding enjoyment in patient interactions that many of my colleagues find frustrating and contributing to their sense of burnout.

People thought my wife and I were crazy having two children in medical school. My daughter was born at the end of my MS1 year and my son was born at the beginning of my MS3 year. Having two children under 2 years old while being a medical student was a crazy time, I can remember sleeping in a recliner for 6 months because my son had such bad colic. Combine that with the time commitment of medical school and my wife and I were pretty exhausted by the end of clinical rotations. That experience really conditioned us and our resolve. After going through that nothing really seems as challenging, not even residency. Now that my children are older we have hit somewhat of a golden period where they are out of diapers, can take better care of themselves, can adventure in the mountains with us, and yet still young enough that we aren't constrained by school schedules.

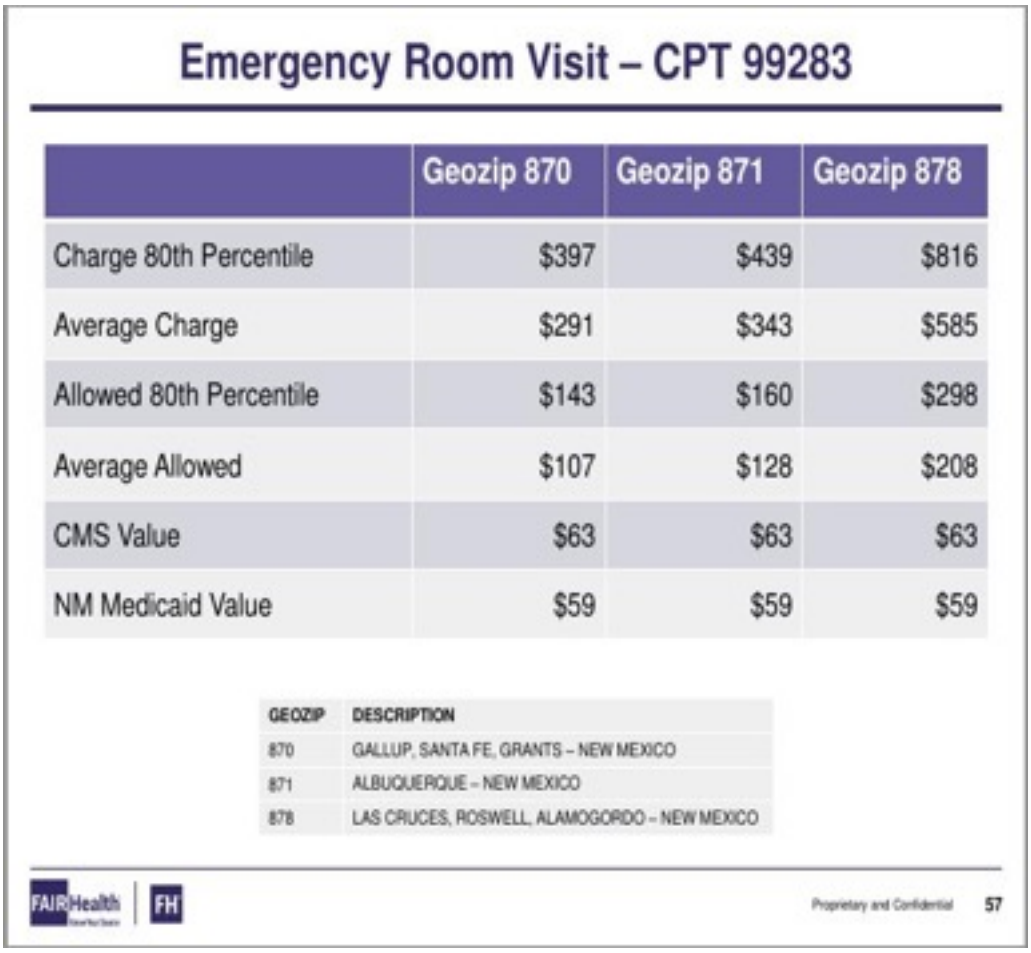
All this to say that life is good right now. I'm enjoying my work my patients and the people I work with, my family is in a good place right now, and I couldn't be happier living here in New Mexico. These may be some of the happiest years of my life.

Surprise Billing Legislation - NM ACEP Needs Your Input! Matthew J. Walsh, MD FACEP

I have been representing NM ACEP at a group formed by the NM Medical Society. We have been working on a proposed law to be introduced in the next legislative session, January 2019 that will address the issue of surprise billing. The purpose is to define the process and limits on payment to Emergency Physicians for patients who have emergency care rendered under EMTALA in your ED, but by a physician who is "out of network" for the patient's insurance. Our proposal does not cover patient care for "in network" visits, non-ED care, or Medicare, Medicaid, TriCare, or self-pay patients. The idea is to eliminate discrepancies over visits to an out of network hospital.

The proposed process does gain us a guarantee of prompt payment for submitted clean claims, with a 6% interest charge per month for delay payments. This is a clear gain for EM physicians.

The proposed payment level would be either the 50%tile of the “Fair Health allowed” data (which includes almost all non-government billing) updated semi-annually, or 150% of the Medicare allowable. **These numbers are still open to negotiation, but I have to have input by 15 September 2018 in order to be able to represent you**. Here is an example of Level 3 ED physicians' charge data.



Emergency Room Visit – CPT 99283

	Geozip 870	Geozip 871	Geozip 878
Charge 80th Percentile	$397	$439	$816
Average Charge	$291	$343	$585
Allowed 80th Percentile	$143	$160	$298
Average Allowed	$107	$128	$208
CMS Value	$63	$63	$63
NM Medicaid Value	$59	$59	$59

GEOZIP	DESCRIPTION
870	GALLUP, SANTA FE, GRANTS – NEW MEXICO
871	ALBUQUERQUE – NEW MEXICO
878	LAS CRUCES, ROSWELL, ALAMOGORDO – NEW MEXICO

FAIRHealth | FH

Proprietary and Confidential 57

So for a Level 3 visit for Albuquerque (Zip 871) the 80th percentile of all physician charges is $439, and the 80th percentile of allowed charges is $160. Average allowed is $128 and 150thpercent of Medicare is $94.50. I have found that multiple payers will not agree to payment at the80th percentile of “billed charges.” They are open to some lower formula, and the one cited here is just a suggestion.

I need to know what NM ACEP members feel is a number or percentile for a formula they could live with, as either a different overall percentile, or as a specific multiple of Medicare allowed. I believe some groups negotiate for 200% Medicare, but I have no personal knowledge of various groups other than the “Average Allowed” in the data above.

Your input as ACEP members and NM EM physicians is needed. Please help! Contact me by email.

Thank you,
Matthew J. Walsh, MD FACEP

NM ACEP Leadership Symposium
September 27, 2018

American College of Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE

New Mexico Chapter

September 27, 2018

NM ACEP Leadership Symposium

In collaboration with the New Mexico Hospital Association's 73rd Annual Meeting, NM ACEP will be holding a Leadership Symposium Thursday, September 27, 2018 at the Embassy Suites Albuquerque. In addition to nationally recognized joint keynote speakers, key clinical topics that affect our statewide practice of Emergency Medicine will be covered.

**Emergency Department Information Exchange (EDIE)

**Advanced Practice Providers in NM EDs

**Telemedicine in NM EDs

CME will be offered for this event!

https://www.nmhanet.org/2018AnnualMeeting.html

NEWS FROM ACEP

American College of Emergency Physicians®
ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE

ACEP eCME

Updates in Reimbursement and Coding – 2018

Reimbursement and coding can be an ongoing challenge for the emergency physician. This**collection of courses on ACEP eCME** will give you the latest information on reimbursement, quality measures and common documentation errors to help ensure you receive appropriate reimbursement for your skilled procedural work.

New ACEP Policy Statements and Information Paper

During their June meeting, the ACEP Board of Directors approved the following new or revised policy statements:

- **Access to 9-1-1 Public Safety Centers, Emergency Medical Dispatch, and Public Emergency Aid Training** – New
- **Appropriate Use Criteria for Handheld/Pocket Ultrasound Devices** – New
- **Coverage for Patient Home Medication While Under Observation Status** – New
- **Delivery of Care to Undocumented Persons** – Revised
- **Disaster Medical Services** – Revised

- **Financing of Graduate Medical Education in Emergency Medicine** – Revised
- **Guideline for Ultrasound Transducer Cleaning and Disinfection** – New
- **Impact of Climate Change on Public Health and Implications for Emergency Medicine** – New
- **Interpretation of Diagnostic Imaging Tests** – Revised
- **Interpretation of EMTALA in Medical Malpractice Litigation** – New
- **Non-Discrimination and Harassment** – Revised
- **Patient Autonomy and Destination Factors in Emergency Medicine Services (EMS) and EMS-Affiliated Mobile Integrated Healthcare Community Paramedicine Programs**– New
- **Prescription Drug Pricing** – New
- **Relationship between Clinical Capabilities and Medical Equipment in the Practice of Emergency Medical Services Medicine** – New
- **Resident Training for Practice in Non-Urban/Underserved Areas** – Revised

The Board also approved the following information papers and PREP:

- **Electronic Health Record (EHR) Best Practices for Efficiency and Throughput (PDF)** - New
- **Initiating Opioid Treatment in the Emergency Department (ED) - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** (PDF) - New
- **Emergency Department Physician Group Staffing Contract Transition** (PDF)
- **Emergency Physician Contractual Relationships - PREP** (PDF) - Revised

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Articles of Interest in *Annals of Emergency Medicine*

Sam Shahid, MBBS, MPH
Practice Management Manager, ACEP

ACEP would like to provide you with very brief synopses of the latest articles in ***Annals of Emergency Medicine***. Some of these have not appeared in print. These synopses are not meant to be thorough analyses of the articles, simply brief introductions. Before incorporating into your practice, you should read the entire articles and interpret them for

your specific patient population.

Duber HC, Barata IA, Cioe-Pena E, Liang SY, Ketcham E, Macias-Konstantopoulos W, Ryan SA, Stavros M, Whiteside LK. **Identification, Management and Transition of Care for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder in the Emergency Department**

In this clinical review article, they examine the current body of evidence underpinning the identification of patients at risk for OUD, ED-based symptomatic treatment of acute opioid withdrawal, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) of OUD upon discharge from the ED, and transition to outpatient services. In this article they also present options for targeted opioid withdrawal and management, as well as a variety of other medications to consider for symptomatic opioid withdrawal treatment for patients that do not require opioids for acute pain. **Full text available here**.

Klein LR, Driver BE, Miner JR, Martel ML, Hessel M, Collins JD, Horton GB, Fagerstrom E, Satpathy R, Cole JB. **Intramuscular Midazolam, Olanzapine, Ziprasidone, or Haloperidol for Treating Acute Agitation in the Emergency Department**

In this prospective observational study of 737 patients, medications were administered based on an a priori protocol where the initial medication given was predetermined in the following 3-week blocks: haloperidol 5mg, ziprasidone 20mg, olanzapine 10mg, midazolam 5mg, haloperidol 10mg. The primary outcome was the proportion of patients adequately sedated at 15 minutes, assessed using the Altered Mental Status Scale (AMSS). Results showed that Intramuscular midazolam achieved more effective sedation in agitated ED patients at 15 minutes than haloperidol, ziprasidone, and perhaps olanzapine. Olanzapine provided more effective sedation than haloperidol. No differences in adverse events were identified. **Full text available here.**

Brenner JM, Baker EF, Iserson KV, Kluesner NH, Marhsall KD, Vearrier L. **Use of Interpreter Services in the Emergency Department**

This paper highlights the importance of effective communication in the provider-patient therapeutic relationship and how language barriers have the potential to compromise all aspects of medical care. The authors identify that in the US, as of 2013, more than 25 million persons had limited English proficiency, making quality medical interpreter services an important public health issue that affects a large proportion of our diverse population. They recommend that a professional interpreter should be offered if practical and available when a patient has either limited English proficiency or hearing impairment and that a modality of interpretation should be chosen between in-person, video, or

telephone based on what best suits the clinical situation. **Full text available here**.

Nowak RM, Gandolfo CM, Jacobsen G, Christenson RH, Moyer M, Hudson M, McCord J. **Ultra-Rapid Rule-Out for Acute Myocardial Infarction Using the Generation 5 Cardiac Troponin T Assay: Results from the REACTIONUS Study**

The objective of this study was to determine how well a new FDA approved single cardiac troponin T Generation 5 (cTnT Gen 5) below the level of quantification (6 ng/L) baseline measurement and a novel study derived baseline/30 minute cTnT Gen 5 algorithm might adequately exclude acute myocardial infarction (AMI) in patients with suspected acute coronary syndrome (ACS) in a United States (US) Emergency Department (ED). They enrolled patients presenting with any symptoms suspicious of ACS. Baseline and 30 minute blood samples were obtained, the cTnT Gen 5 levels later batch analyzed in an independent core laband the AMI diagnosis was adjudicated by a cardiologist and an emergency physician. They found that a single baseline cTnT Gen 5 measurement <6 mg/L and values at baseline <8 ng/L and a delta 30 minute < 3 ng/L ruled-out AMI in 28.8% and 41.0% of patients respectively. The authors did identify limitations such as single center ED, selection bias and the exclusion of patients with life-threatening illness, cardioversion or defibrillation within 24 hours of presentation, STEMI patients requiring immediate reperfusion or those who were pregnant or breast feeding, and highlighted that additional multi-center US studies evaluating these ultra-rapid AMI ruleout guidelines are needed.

Friederich A, Martin N, Swanson MB, Faine BA, Mohr NM. **Normal Saline and Lactated Ringer's have a Similar Effect on Quality of Recovery: A Randomized Controlled Trial**

The purpose of this single-site participant- and evaluator-blinded, 2-arm parallel allocation (1:1), comparative effectiveness randomized controlled trial study was to test the hypothesis that balanced crystalloids improve quality of recovery more than normal saline (0.9% sodium chloride, NS) in stable Emergency Department patients. 157 Patients allocated to receiving IV fluids in the ED before discharge to were randomized to receive 2 L of Lactated Ringer's (LR) or NS. The primary outcome was symptom scores measured by the validated Quality of Recovery-40 (QoR-40) instrument (scores 40-200) 24 hours after enrollment. Results showed that there was no difference in post-enrollment QoR scores between NS and LR groups. Although pre-enrollment scores were higher in the LR group, adjusting for pre-survey imbalances did not change the primary outcome. The authors concluded that NS and LR were associated with similar 24-h recovery scores and 7-day health care utilization in stable ED patients.

Preorder the Title that Celebrates the Depth and Diversity of EM

Explore the side of emergency medicine few see – the emotional, the heartbreaking, the thrilling, the heroic – the human side of EM. ACEP's 50th Anniversary Book, *Bring 'Em All*, reveals how far the specialty has come in its short, vibrant life. Famed photographer Eugene Richards captures the breathtaking moments that make the lives & careers of American emergency physicians.**Reserve your copy today**.

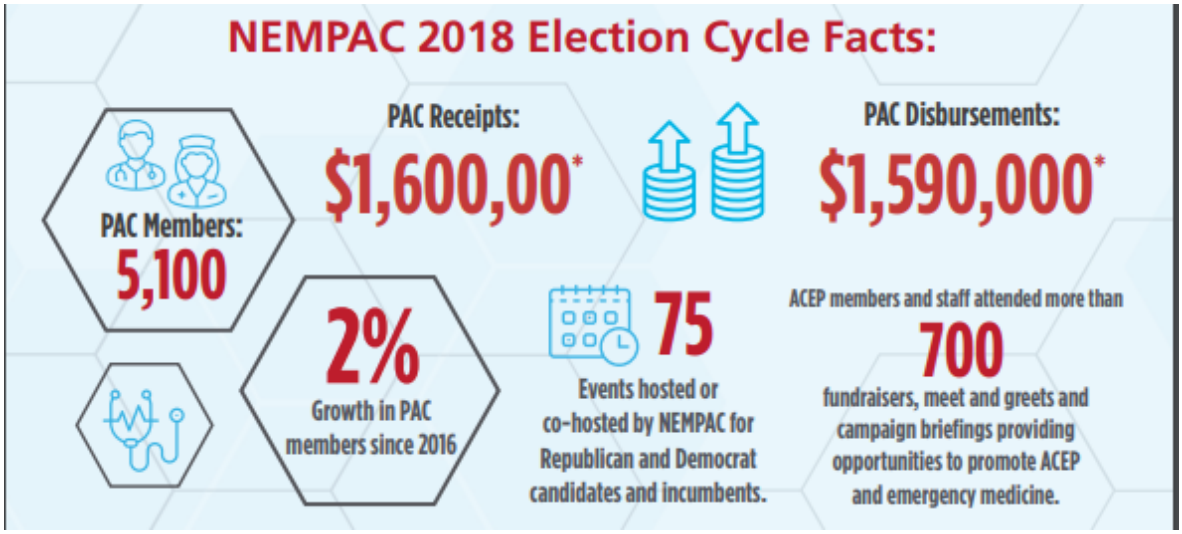
Interested in GED Accreditation?

Learn how to develop a Geriatric Emergency Department (GED) with this three-hour **geriatric pre-conference** during ACEP18. Hear from the geriatric experts who will walk you through the increasing need for geriatric medicine focusing on GED clinical workflows, training and staff development, geriatric-focused policies and protocols, and achieving **GED accreditation**. Panel discussions include institutions who have been awarded accreditation.

Emergency Ultrasound Tracker

Emergency physicians regularly apply for hospital credentials to perform emergency procedures including emergency ultrasound. Theoretically, ultrasound training, credentialing and billing should be no different than other emergency procedures where training occurs in residency and an attestation letter from the residency is sufficient for local credentialing. When such training occurs outside of residency, “proctored pathways” often serve to assure competency. There is still a lack of understanding and awareness in the general medical community that emergency physicians routinely train in and perform point-of-care ultrasound.

The **Emergency Ultrasound Tracker** was created to assist members in achieving official recognition of ultrasound skills. This tool allows you to easily keep track of ultrasound scans you have performed over the course of your career in emergency medicine. It also allows you to upload relevant documents that attest to your training. After inputting and self-attesting to your ultrasound information you may download a letter of recognition from ACEP so long as you have attested to meeting the recommendations for emergency ultrasound training put forth in the **ACEP Ultrasound Guidelines**. We hope you find this tracker tool helpful and useful in your practice.



NEMPAC Mid-Term Election Update

With the mid-term elections just months away, ACEP and the National Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee (NEMPAC) are focused on electing candidates who will work on bi-partisan solutions to address emergency medicine's most pressing issues. The NEMPAC Board and staff rely on input from ACEP state chapters and local ACEP members when evaluating support for incumbent legislators and new candidates – **we want to hear from you!** NEMPAC is the 4th largest medical PAC and will continue to grow with your support. Learn more about NEMPAC today by visiting **our website** or contact **Jeanne Slade**. Keep an eye on your inbox for additional details about NEMPAC's activities as we get closer to the elections.

ED ICU Development and Operations Workshop Pre-Conference

San Diego Convention Center, Upper Level, 7B
Sunday, September 30, 2018 | 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm

If you have ever considered developing an ED ICU this workshop is for you. Participants will learn about staffing, reimbursement, collaborations, and business plan development, with the goal of developing and running their own ED-ICU. This program is directed at those along the entire continuum of ED-ICU development from conceptual to operational

phases. **Register here**. For more information, contact **Margaret Montgomery, RN MSN**.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE – JULY 2018

American Board of Emergency Medicine

Subspecialty Certification in Neurocritical Care

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has approved subspecialty certification in Neurocritical Care (NCC). NCC is co-sponsored by the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA), the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM), the American Board of Neurological Surgery, and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). Physicians certified by these four boards who meet the eligibility criteria for NCC will have the opportunity to become certified in NCC.

There will be two pathways to certification in NCC: a training pathway and a time-limited practice pathway. The practice pathway will start at the time the first exam is offered. Eligible pathway criteria will be posted on the ABEM website by the end of 2018. ABPN will develop and administer the examination; physicians will submit applications to their primary certifying board. The first examination is expected to take place in either 2020 or 2021.

Letter Available Refuting Merit Badge Requirements

ABEM provides a letter of support that may be submitted to hospital administrators to forego the mandatory completion of short courses or additional certifications (“merit badges”) often needed for hospital privileges. Physicians must be participating in the ABEM MOC Program to obtain the letter.

The letter, signed by each representative of the Coalition to Oppose Medical Merit Badges (COMMB), details specific activities that board-certified physicians perform to

maintain certification. ABEM-certified physicians can now download the letter from their Personal Page on the ABEM portal by doing the following:

- Sign in to the ABEM portal at **www.abem.org**
- On the left navigation, click “Print Verification of ABEM Status”
- Under letter type, click “General Coalition ABEM”
- Click “Continue to Next Step”

Take the ConCert™ Early - Retain Your Current Certificate Date

You can take the ConCert™ Examination during the last five years of your certification (during the annual testing window). If you pass the exam early, you will still retain your certification until the expiration date on your current certificate. This is also true even after you complete all of your MOC requirements. When your current certification expires, you will be issued a new, ten-year certificate. If you take the ConCert™ Examination early and do not pass, you still retain your certification and have another chance(s) to pass it. ABEM only reports whether a physician is board certified and participating in MOC.

In 2017, 44 percent of ConCert™ test takers registered to take the exam early; that is, in a year prior to their final year of certification.

Welcome New Members

Sydney M Cooper
Cameron Grossaint
Matthew Gunderson, MD
Carli Ogle
Philip Sosa, DO
Cory Lynn Steigerwald

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