



MN ACEP

Minnesota Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians

POLICY UPDATE

Welcome!

MN ACEP would like to share with you our *Policy Update* newsletter. These newsletters will be our way to share with you information and opportunities in the areas of policy, funding, regulation, and much more.



Buck McAlpin



Mark Jones

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **2024 Legislative Session**
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Legislative Session

The 2024 legislative session had its fair share of successes amid a modest final bill count. MN ACEP was able to assist in the passage of five priority bills. We look forward to next year's task of expanding on existing legislation and seeing others over the finish line.

The Minnesota House of Representatives will convene January, 14, 2025 at noon.

Passed Legislation

[HF 4738](#)

A combined \$30 million for rural Emergency Medical was passed which included \$24 million for emergency aid and \$6 million for a “sprint medic” pilot program

Established the Office of Emergency Medical Services. This bill included positive provisions such as the Deputy Director of Medical Services Division must be a physician and the EMS Physician Council will advise Director and Deputy Directors on clinical aspects of prehospital care.

[HF 4757](#)

340B Drug Discount Program

- Allows 340B covered entities to receive discounted drugs from contract pharmacies
 - Updated 340B reporting requirements to include “administered” drugs
-

[HF 5247](#)

Graduate Medical Education directed payments program

- \$100 million surcharge on teaching hospitals
- Surcharge will leverage a federal match of \$100 million

- Medicaid reimbursement for teaching hospitals will be increased to support resident training programs

Prior Authorization Update

- Chronic conditions only need prior authorization
- No prior authorization for mental health, SUD and cancer
- MCO's must report prior authorization data to MDH
- MCO's must accept prior authorizations electronically

Workforce - Established new interstate compacts

- Physician assistants
- Occupational therapists
- Physical therapists
- Dentists & dental hygienist
- Social workers
- Licensed professional counselors
- Audiologists

Medical Debt Collection (Debt Fairness Act)

- Health care providers must create and publish collections policies on their website and offer a paper copy upon request.
- Medically necessary services and treatments cannot be denied due to outstanding medical debt.
- Patients must be notified when a billing error is found. Overpayments due to billing errors must be refunded within 30 days of completing a review of the error.
- Collections agencies are prohibited from reporting medical debt to a consumer reporting agency.
- Eliminates medical debt liability for spouses but allows claims against a decedent's estate.
- Establishes weekly income garnishment thresholds for lower income employed individuals.
- Provisions that are **NOT** included in the Act:
 1. Elimination of interest expense on medical debt.
 2. Elimination of access to revenue recapture for municipal hospitals, hospital districts and ambulance services.

Physician Assistant Practice

- Removes physician collaboration requirements in the treatment of children with emotional disturbance or adults with serious mental illness by a PA.

Inpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- Requires a report from the Direct Care and Treatment executive board on options for increasing inpatient SUD beds operated by the state.

County-Administered Rural Medical Assistance Model (CARMA)

- Instructs DHS to develop a replacement for County-based purchasing plans and county-administered health coverage.

Hospital Service Closures

- Increases the required notice to MDH of the closure of services from 120 to 182 days.
- Allows the local unit of government of which a closing hospital is located the first right of refusal in the purchase of the hospital.

Non-profit health plans

- Numerous provisions in legislation that prevent for-profit health plans from doing business in Minnesota.

SF 5289

Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence

- Establishes the Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence at U of M. Charged with developing a nursing workforce plan.

SF 5335

Mental Health

- \$5.8 million one-time inpatient rate increase
- \$3.0 million for school-based mental health
- 10 priority admissions slots for hospitals to Anoka Regional Treatment Center for civilly committed patients from hospitals.
- MNChoices county assessment valid for 365 days (previously 60 days)
- DHS to develop a plan for MA reimbursement for home and community-based services in acute care settings.

Failed Legislation

Prompt payment for ED and ambulance charges (first-dollar coverage)

[HF 4106](#) | [SF 3989](#)

Hospital Boarding Relief - Policy changes to medical assistance eligibility determinations for hospital patients, supplemental payments for disability waiver services, guardianship changes.

[HF 4188](#) | [SF 3531](#)

Joy in Medicine recognition grant program and physician well-being program

[HF 3986](#) | [SF 4013](#)

Charges in licensing requirements for graduates of foreign medical schools

[HF 3743](#) | [SF 3701](#)

Protected Class Transportation funding

[HF 4745](#) | [SF 4778](#)

Public Option creation and implementation

[HF 4206](#) | [SF 4392](#)

Prohibition of private equity companies acquiring health care companies in Minnesota.

[HF 3648](#) | [SF 4458](#)

Direct Primary Care service agreements

[HF 4046](#) | [SF 4346](#)

Establishment of the Commission for Equitable Health Care Services

[HF 4200](#) | [SF 4444](#)

Nurse staffing ratios

[HF 4210](#) | [SF 4064](#)

Creation of a 24-hour a day, four-person Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Team in hospitals

In the News

2024 Minnesota legislative session comes to chaotic end



Learn more about the 2024 legislative session's chaotic finish as parties butted heads and ushered hurried legislation into law.

[Read More](#)

House closes 2024 session in chaotic fashion, trading bonding for budget boosts

After a robust 2023 legislative session, the 2024 session ended with initial priorities placed to the side to complete other work.

Review a breakdown of key legislation that made it to the finish line.

[Read More](#)

Advocate with Us

Are you an ardent supporter of emergency medicine? The [MN ACEP Advocacy and Policy Task Force](#) is recruiting. Bolster your association's advocacy efforts with your involvement and professional knowledge.



Upcoming Events

From the Frontlines! Our ED Boarding Crisis

Webinar

Hosted by American Association of Women Emergency Physicians Section

Date: July 31, 2024

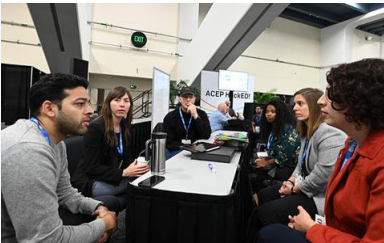
Time: 12:33 - 1:33 PM Central Time



Join Shannon Findlay, MD, Erin Muckey, MD, MBA, and Heidi Knowles, MD, FACEP as they discuss our emergency department boarding crisis and highlighting points such as:

- Successful solutions from today's problem solvers
- ED boarding is NOT an ED problem
- Challenges identified from both admin types and docs on shift, sharing misery and ideas for improvement

[Register Today](#)



HackED 2024 Information Session

Webinar

Hosted by American College of Emergency Physicians

Date: July 15

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 PM Central Time

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and Emergency Medicine Innovation Collaborative (EMIC) team is excited to welcome you to HackED, the largest hackathon in Emergency Medicine, which will be held in person on Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2024 in Las Vegas. In the spirit of innovation, we have some exciting changes for 2024; we are now offering two tracks: hardware (e.g. medical devices) and software (e.g. digital health) solutions to the most pressing challenges facing healthcare today.

[Register Today](#)

2024 ACEP Scientific Assembly

Date: September 29 - October 2, 2024

Location: Las Vegas, NV | Mandalay Bay

Join your colleagues from all over the country in Las Vegas!

YOU'RE INVITED!

ACEP Scientific Assembly Las Vegas

Mandalay Bay Convention Center
Sept 29 - Oct 2, 2024



- Education opportunities
- Networking
- Fun

[Register Today](#)



