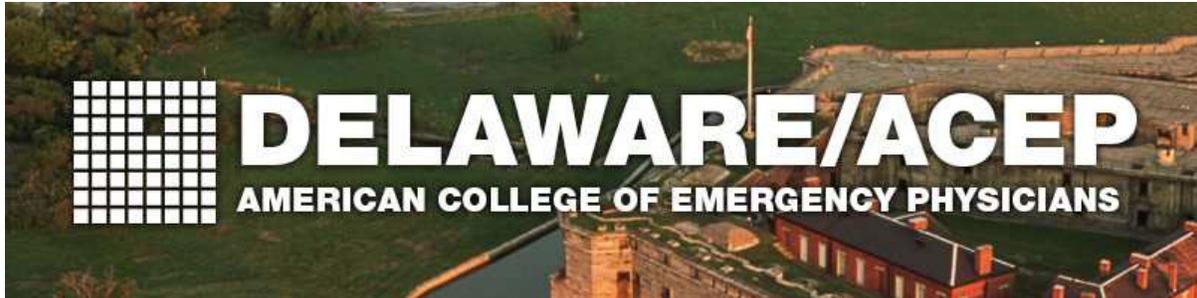


A Newsletter for the Members of the Delaware Chapter - Winter 2026

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From the President

John Powell, MD, MHCDS, FACEP

Hi all. Hopefully you enjoyed an amazing holiday season, catching up with friends and family. The 153rd Delaware Legislative Assembly began on January 13th, and we will actively monitor issues that may affect emergency services in the

state. We will do our best to keep you informed. Please support local and national candidates who hold our emergency medicine interests in high regard.

State Issues

Key state legislation passed in 2025 include:

Delaware Pre-Authorization Reform Act of 2025 – Senate Bill 12 with SA 1 passed in June 2025. This legislation should decrease the administrative burden for our physician and APC colleagues. Key features include:

- Shortened times for prior authorization requests that are submitted electronically. Clinicians will receive notification within 72 hours for non-urgent care and 24 hours for urgent health-care services
- All adverse determinations should be made by a physician of a same or similar specialty as the treating clinician
- Increased availability of peer-to-peer consults regarding denials to meet needs of urgent, hospital, and emergency care clinicians
- By 1 January 2027, insurers, health-benefit plans, health-service corporations, and utilization review entities must accept and respond to electronic pre-authorization requests through the same platform as the electronic request was submitted.
- Pre-authorization periods are valid for 90 days, increased from 60 days.

The Ron Silverio/Heather Block End-of-Life Options Act – House Bill 140

This legislation allows mentally capable adults diagnosed with a terminal illness and a prognosis of 6 months or less to request and self-administer life-ending medication. The voluntary process requires two (2) physicians to confirm the diagnosis and prognosis. Healthcare facilities may opt out of providing the

service, so it's important for us to be aware of our institutional policies. The legislation took effect on 1 January 2026; however, operational issues still exist.

National Issues

Emergency Medicine continues to suffer from bad payer behavior associated with the No Surprises Act, which was intended to create an equal playing field to address out-of-network billing. We've seen erosion in reimbursements, and payers failing to engage in the independent resolution process.

ACEP strongly supports the "No Surprises Act Enforcement Act" (H.R. 4710/S. 2420), which is bipartisan legislation that seeks to address bad insurer behavior by holding them accountable for continued gaming of the No Surprises Act.

Please join us at Leadership and Advocacy conference in Washington DC on 26 – 28 April 2026. The conference culminates in a Hill Day, where Emergency Medicine physicians from across the country meet with our legislators and their staff to discuss relevant issues, such as insurer interactions and healthcare worker violence. Your frontline stories are key to creating a shared understanding of our experiences.

Chapter Issues

Plan to attend the next Delaware ACEP meeting on February 5th at 6:00 pm. We will be gathering at Skipjacks Restaurant in Newark, 401 Louviers Dr, Newark, DE 19711.

January 2027 will be our "election year". I realize this is an early announcement, but we want to provide our team plenty of time to consider this rewarding position. We will vote in a new President-Elect at the chapter meeting this fall, time and place to be determined. Please contact me or Kate Groner if you are

interested in running for an office or would like to nominate a candidate. In addition, call us at any time with questions, concerns or if you would like to get involved in particular issues in our state.

We wish you all the best as you continue to work each day to serve our patients and provide the highest level of compassionate emergency care.

Sincerely,

John

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Advocacy Win: DEA Issues Long-Awaited EMS "Standing Orders" Final Rule

In a long-awaited victory, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) issued the **Registering Emergency Medical Services Agencies under the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017 Final Rule** to ensure

continued access to pain and anti-seizure medications for patients experiencing medical emergencies. [Read more.](#)

Updated ACEP Policy Raises Standard for Emergency Physician-Led Care

On January 27th, the ACEP Board of Directors voted to amend the policy statement “Guidelines Regarding the Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department.” [Read more.](#)

2026 HHS Funding Update

A bipartisan bill passed by Congress today funds the government through September 30, 2026. New HHS funding means bipartisan support for ACEP-led efforts. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Will Not Endorse New Sepsis Guidelines from the Surviving Sepsis Campaign

After a thorough and comprehensive review by a panel of experts convened from the membership of the College, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) today informed the Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC) that ACEP will not endorse the organization’s latest update to guidelines for treatment of sepsis in emergency departments. [Read more.](#)

NYACEP-Supported Law Strengthens ED Security and Violence Prevention

A new law championed by the New York chapter of ACEP (NYACEP) requires hospitals in the state to establish violence prevention programs. [Read more.](#)

Emergency Departments Should be Safe Zones for Patients

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is committed to ensuring that emergency departments remain places where all individuals can safely seek emergency medical care without fear. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Advocacy: Advancing Rural Care, Opposing Non-Competes, Fighting Bad Insurer Behavior

ACEP advocacy keeps delivering key wins for emergency medicine at the federal

and state levels. The newest installment of our [members-only Capitol Rounds webinar series](#) keeps you current on advocacy wins, policy changes and important developments in DC and across the country. [Read more.](#)

ACEP to Congress: Stronger Policies, Accountability Can Stop Bad Insurer Behavior

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) welcomes today's Congressional hearings examining the bad insurer behavior that drives up premiums and increases health care costs for millions of people, limiting access to affordable insurance. [Read more.](#)

ACEP and National Health Care Groups Issue Joint Statement on Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Departments

The lives of more than two thousand children could be saved with new recommendations included in a [joint statement](#) issued by organizations focused on caring for young people in emergencies. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Leads Call for CMS Guidance on Signage to Prevent Violence Against Health Care Workers

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and a coalition of health care organizations [sent a letter](#) urging the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to issue guidance that facilitates the posting of signage in emergency departments (EDs) discouraging violence. [Read more.](#)

Update on ABEM Physician Portal

ABEM recently transitioned to a new physician portal, MyABEM, and some physicians experienced account access challenges during the transition. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

- [Talk with Tony](#)
February 12, 2026
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time
Join ACEP President Dr. Tony Cirillo for his monthly chat with ACEP members. Get the inside scoop on the latest at ACEP and in emergency medicine.
- [Capitol Rounds: The Plot Thickens in DC and Statehouses](#)
February 25, 2026
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Central Time
Capitol Rounds is back—and the plot is definitely thickening. Join us for a fast, practical rundown of the latest developments important to emergency medicine in Washington, DC, and across statehouses nationwide, including key legislative and regulatory moves, what’s gaining traction, and what to watch next.
- [The Role of HHS in Disaster Response and MASCAL Response and Medicine](#)
March 17, 2026
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Central Time
Explore key concepts, practical considerations, and real-world applications relevant to emergency medicine, disaster medicine, and prehospital care professionals. Gain insight into current challenges, emerging best practices, and strategies that can be applied across a variety of clinical, operational, and disaster response settings.
- [2026 ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference](#)
April 26 – 28, 2026
Washington, District of Columbia
Join your colleagues in Washington, DC, and make your collective voices heard to inspire change for your patients and your specialty.

- [2026 ACEP Scientific Assembly](#)

October 5 – 8, 2026

Chicago, Illinois

The world's largest emergency medicine educational conference bringing together the global EM community. Registration is coming soon!

Contact Delaware ACEP

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