

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to a Brand New Year, 2022!



**Christine Babcock,
MD, FACEP**

As we transition to a New Year, many of us as Emergency Physicians were looking forward to a fresh start. We were hopeful that vaccines, boosters, novel therapies, masks, and social distancing would slowly, but methodically, move us onward to a COVID-19 manageable world.

But then Omicron swept in and we found ourselves back in a similar clinical space that we had hoped was permanently in the past. Patient volumes and hospital bed occupancy are at all time highs. As of January 13, 7320 patients were in Illinois hospitals with COVID-19 and of those 1,148 in the ICU and 657 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators. In addition, the Illinois Department of Public Health reports that almost 90% of COVID-19 hospitalized patients are unvaccinated. Adding to the challenge with this new surge is the Omicron variant's ability to evade vaccines and cause infections in health care workers, adding to the mix a significant staffing shortage. We are all aware of how challenging this wave has been and continues to be. However, I remain hopeful that as a unified community we can get through this together and hopefully we will soon see a light at the end of this long dark tunnel.

On a positive note, recent metrics suggest that Illinois may be near or at the anticipated peak of this current wave. We are also starting to receive more pharmaceutical therapies to assist with

COVID-19 related patient care. As an organization, ICEP continues to advocate for Emergency Physicians through education campaigns, advocacy efforts and continued conversations encouraging support of our front-line teams. Just last week, a group of ICEP physicians met with the Illinois Department of Public Health to discuss EMS services and the current pandemic. Details regarding this meeting are summarized by Dr. Henry Pitzele below. However, it should be emphasized that not only was EMS bypass discussed but also the ongoing challenge with crowding and throughput in many Illinois hospitals. ICEP is committed to working on these challenges affecting EM providers in Illinois now AND after we move past the current pandemic surge.

Pivoting to non-COVID-19 related topics, ICEP has many exciting educational programs planned for 2022. The year kicks off with the Emergency Medicine Update which will be held virtually on February 10th. The highly regarded Virtual Oral Board Review Course will also be offered this year, in alignment with the virtual ABEM Certifying Examination. The Education Committee is also hopeful that the Spring Symposium on May 19th will take place in person this year. The theme of the conference is "Intersectionality and Allyship—Promoting Practice and Care in Emergency Medicine," and we look forward to a robust discussion and the opportunity to re-connect after two years of virtual educational content.

As previously mentioned, ICEP continues to advocate for its members on multiple levels. If available and interested, please join us on

February 16th for Virtual Advocacy Day. Unfortunately, we are unable to make the trip to Springfield this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we will have virtual sessions with key stakeholders to continue our advocacy efforts. On a bright note regarding advocacy successes, I would like to highlight the recent work by Dr. Monika Pitzele who serves as the ICEP Representative on the Illinois Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Services Implementation Task Force. Dr. Pitzele's Op-Ed titled "Op-Ed: Billing Insurance for Rape Kits Isn't Just a Money Issue. It's a Safety Issue for Survivors" was published by the Chicago Tribune on January 10, 2022. In this article she argues for Illinois to join the 42 other states that currently allow victims/survivors to opt out of billing their private insurance for medical forensic exams (read more about it on page 2). In addition, Dr. Pitzele testified on behalf of ICEP at the Senate Health Committee regarding a bill to support the expansion of services offered to victims of sexual assault. After testimony was completed, this bill was unanimously passed by the committee and will now go to the Senate floor. At a national level, ACEP continues to advocate for its members especially as it relates to The No Surprises Act. If interested, please explore the ACEP website link here <https://www.acep.org/federal-advocacy/no-surprises-act-overview/> for more detail on what this means to you as an individual or group of providers.

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Finally, the ICEP Board of Directors would like to thank Dr. Napoleon Knight for his service as President-Elect. Dr. Knight was recruited to be the CMO of his multiple hospital organization and has elected to focus his time on his new role and will not continue on the Executive Board. With his departure, Dr. Jason Kegg was elected as President-Elect, Dr. Howie Mell as Secretary/Treasurer and Dr. Amit Arwindekar as Member-At-Large. Welcome to your new roles Jason, Howie and Amit! We will miss you Napoleon and thank you so much for your time and dedication to ICEP and the Executive Board over the years.

As we move into the New Year, I look forward to continuing to work with ICEP and its members. As always, please contact me if I can be of any assistance on a personal or organizational level. In addition, if you have ideas/want to get involved in education, advocacy, strategy or just want to talk please reach out. Cheers to a Happy and Healthy 2022!

— **Christine Babcock, MD, FACEP**
ICEP President

Monika Pitzele, MD, FACEP, ICEP representative on the Illinois Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Services Implementation Task Force

Updates on Care of Sexual Assault Patients

During the past few years there were several important changes regarding the care of sexual assault patients in the Emergency Department. The changes were initiated by the introduction of Public Act 100-0775 expanding the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act (SASETA) in 2018. The Illinois Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Services Implementation Task Force is overseeing those changes.

Recap of the changes

Some of the most important changes are:

- After the deadline, all sexual assault survivors will have to be cared for by a Qualified Medical Provider (QMP), either a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE), available 24/7/365 within 90 minutes of survivor's arrival to the Emergency Department
- All hospitals will need to decide if they become Treatment Hospitals (taking care of all survivors), Transfer Hospitals (transferring all survivors) or Treatment Hospitals with Approved Pediatric Transfer (able to care for adult and adolescent survivors,

and transferring all pediatric survivors under 13 years of age)

- Forensic photography must be offered as a part of evidence collection
- All Emergency Department staff not meeting the definition of a QMP has to complete 2 hours of education every 2 years

Deadline change

The initial deadline for the above changes was January 1st, 2022. Last year this deadline was pushed forward a year, adding some more time for hospitals to prepare. The new deadline is January 1st, 2023.

Legislative initiative

ICEP, together with members of the Cost of Care Committee of the Task Force, started a legislative initiative aimed to further improve care of survivors and to facilitate the law implementation for the hospitals. Senator Julie Morrison, who is also a Task Force Member, sponsored two bills addressing those issues.

1. SB2967

[Click here to view bill.](#)

This bill is asking for an increase in the compensation for medical forensic exams for uninsured patients and patients on Medicaid. According to the law, sexual assault survivors cannot be billed for the initial exam and evidence collection. For patients with private insurance, the insurance will reimburse the hospital. The hospital is not allowed to charge copays to the survivor – instead, those bills are submitted to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). HFS also reimburses the hospitals for patients on Medicaid and without insurance. However, the reimbursement is very low, less than \$100, which definitely does not cover the cost of the exam that lasts several hours, and requires staff with specialized training. This bill is asking to increase compensation to \$3,000, putting it at the levels comparable with the hospital charges for those visits.

The second part of this bill proposes the exception to the mandated billing of private insurance for medical forensic visits. This provision is meant for rare circumstances -- when this mandate may endanger the survivor or negatively affect their access to care. It would be applicable in cases of domestic violence, when a

continued on next page



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survivor is a beneficiary on the perpetrators' insurance, or when young adults, who are still on their parent's insurance, may be concerned about their privacy when seeking care after an assault. This amendment would allow a survivor who is not the primary beneficiary on the insurance to opt out from billing the insurance. These patients would be treated as uninsured, with the HFS compensating hospitals for their care.

2. SB3023

[Click here to view bill.](#)

Qualifying survivors receive a voucher for follow up care that can be used for 90 days after the assault to cover the cost of clinic visits, prescriptions and counseling. The only survivors who do not qualify for the voucher are

patients on Medicaid, where the visits would be already covered. This amendment is asking to extend the voucher from 3 months to 6 months to fully comply with CDC recommendations for follow up care. Most of the recommended testing and vaccinations are done within few weeks after the assault, but there are a few that are outside this window. The repeated test for HIV and syphilis should be done at 3 months post assault. If a survivor needs a HepB or HPV vaccine, the repeated doses are 4-6 months, and 6 months after the first dose, respectively. This extension would enable completion of the testing and vaccinations for survivors who need it.

These legislative changes present opportunities for advocacy for all ICEP members (and potentially their friends and relatives too). The Social EM Committee and Patient and Physician Advocacy Committee members have already start-

ed helping by filling witness slips for the bills, contacting their legislators, and talking to their institutions regarding their support for the bills. Please, consider joining in on these initiatives.

Resources and educational materials can be found at:

<https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/saimplementationtaskforce.html>

<https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/sane.html>

For questions regarding the above materials or education opportunities, email SANE@ilag.gov

Or contact your ICEP representative on the Task Force at mpitzele@gmail.com

EM Update 2022 NOW VIRTUAL!

Emergency Medicine Update is a multifaceted educational program with something for every emergency care provider.

On Thursday, February 10, 2022 ICEP will be hosting on Zoom EM Update which will focus on the following topics:

- Assessing VTE Risk in Patients with COVID-19 Infection
- Heroic Procedures
- The Top 10 EM Articles of 2021

- Pediatric Marijuana Exposure
- ICEP Update

Physicians -- This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint providership of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians. The American College of Emergency Physicians is accredited by the Accreditation Council for

Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American College of Emergency Physicians designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Approved by the American College of Emergency Physicians for a maximum of 6.0 hours of ACEP Category I credit.

Nurses -- The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Certification will accept CME credit for 50 percent of a registered nurse's certification requirements.

EMT and Prehospital/RN/ECRN -- This continuing education activity is approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Pre-Hospital Continuing Education (CAPCE) for a maximum of 6.0 continuing education hours (CEH).

This conference provides 0.75 hours of pediatric topics that can be used in hospitals recognized in Illinois as a Pediatric Critical Care Center (PCCC), Emergency Departments Approved for Pediatrics (EDAP) and Standby Emergency Departments approved for Pediatrics (SEDP).

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Conference speakers for EM Update 2022.



John W. Hafner, Jr., MD, MPH, FACEP,



Greg Podolej, MD



Christine Babcock, MD, FACEP



Marit S. Tweet, MD



Chris Hutchinson, PGDip, BE



Erik Wright, MD



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Issues Related to EMS bypass within the State

On January 10th, members of the ICEP and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) met to discuss issues related to EMS bypass within the state. Members of both the ICEP EMS committee and the Board of Directors met with IDPH EMS Division Chief Ashley Thoele in a productive, roundtable (albeit nonphysical) meeting.

All attendees agreed that the current pandemic-induced combination of increased volumes/acuity and decreased hospital staffing were creating near-unparalleled overcrowding across the entire medical system. EMS bypass, a construct

already controversial within the EMS community and research literature as an effective pressure valve, has even less-clear effectiveness when all of the neighboring hospitals are overwhelmed as well. To that end, IDPH will continue to support its 2020 memo which does not permit EMS bypass during the pandemic. The positives (shorter transport times, load equalization) and negatives (increased offload times, the morale-killing lack of a potential temporary reprieve) of this policy were discussed, and all agreed that while imperfect, it best serves the goals of the Department and citizenry overall. Also discussed was the related subject of ED

boarding, also now at unprecedented highs. Possible legislative and regulatory avenues to address this as a hospital-wide throughput problem (and not as an ED problem) were also discussed, and will be further developed by both organizations.

— **Henry Pitzele, MD, FACEP**
Past ICEP President

The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians Shares Suggestions to Alleviate Health System Strain as Omicron Surges

Downers Grove, IL — Emergency departments in Illinois are filling with patients who have COVID-19 and other medical emergencies. Seeking routine COVID - 19 tests at a testing site and managing mild to moderate illnesses at home can help make sure patients can access emergency care when they need it, said ICEP.

“Never ignore the signs of a medical emergency,” said Chrissy Babcock, MD, FACEP, President of ICEP. “But keep in mind that medical staff and resources across Illinois are getting stretched to the limit. If you are just looking for a routine COVID - 19 test, consider visiting a testing site or taking a test at home first.”

Emergency physicians continue to voice concerns about capacity issues, staffing challenges and resource constraints. As of January 13, 7320 patients were in Illinois hospitals with COVID - 19. Of those, 1,148 patients were in the ICU and 657 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators. The Illinois Department of Public Health reports that almost 90% of COVID-19 hospitalized patients are unvaccinated. “Our hospitals are more crowded today than at any other point during the pandemic,” said Dr. Babcock. “Fortunately, those who are vaccinated are more likely to experience mild or moderate symptoms and can treat COVID at home. It is very worrisome that nearly all of the patients with severe COVID in the emergency depart-

ment are unvaccinated.”

Everyone eligible should get the vaccine and a booster shot. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that unvaccinated individuals are 10 times more likely to test positive for COVID-19 and 20 times more likely to die of COVID-19. For the vaccinated, common symptoms associated with the Omicron variant include head or body aches and other similarities with the common cold. This version of the virus may not include a loss of sense of taste or smell.

Other symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Coughing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea


Everyone should follow national and local guidelines that include wearing a mask in crowded spaces, social distancing, regular hand washing, and staying at home if you are sick. “It is critical that we all try to take the steps that we know can slow the spread of the virus. There is a point where there will be no more room in

our hospitals, whether a patient has COVID or anything else,” said Dr. Babcock “Let’s do all we can to avoid that scenario and make sure that emergency physicians are available to care for those who are severely ill.”

The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians is the state medical specialty society representing 1500 physicians who practice emergency medicine across the state of Illinois. For more information contact Brittney Tambeau at brittneyt@icep.org.



Free CME Program on Stroke for ICEP Members - Time is Brain: The Myriad of Stroke Presentations Seen in the ED Course



Time is Brain: *The Myriad of Stroke Presentations Seen in the ED*

Stroke is a time-sensitive diagnosis that requires immediate recognition and treatment. The challenge for ED providers is recognizing the myriad of stroke presentations, ordering the appropriate neuroimaging and safely providing therapeutic interventions. In these modules, we will discuss how to quickly diagnose and treat a variety of stroke syndromes using evidence-based guidelines.

Illinois requires that all emergency physicians meet its 3-hour requirement for stroke education. ICEP's unique online program meets the state requirement.

The program includes:

- 6 narrated PowerPoints
- 3.25 hours of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* continuing medical education

This program is FREE to all ICEP members.

[Click here to sign up!](#)

Non-ICEP physicians can sign-up [here](#) or email Brittney for more information at brittneyt@icep.org. If you are an ACEP member please [click here](#).

Once participation is successfully verified, ICEP will forward a CME certificate of completion within 14 working days. Please note that *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* may be awarded one (1) time in conjunction with your purchase during the 3-year period.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians. The American College of Emergency Physicians is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American College of Emergency Physicians designates this enduring material for a maximum of 3.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Approved by the American College of Emergency Physicians for a maximum of 3.25 hours of ACEP Category I credit.



ARE YOU SEATED FOR YOUR ORAL EXAM IN SPRING 2022? ICEP HAS YOU COVERED!

Virtual **ORAL BOARD** **REVIEW COURSES**



ABEM Virtual Exam Simulation Live on Zoom:

April 25-26, 2022

August 29-30, 2022

This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™

WHY MAKE ICEP YOUR CHOICE FOR ORAL BOARD REVIEW?

- One-on-one case simulation with experienced faculty via zoom
- More cases in less time to maximize your preparation
- 6 single traditional cases and 1 structured interview will be included
- To maximize your one-on-one case practice with faculty, the course introduction and tips for the oral exam presented by Course Director Dr. Deborah Weber will be available in advance of the course
- 35+ years of experience helping emergency physicians pass their boards

Registration Fees:

\$659.00 ACEP/ICEP members

\$759.00 non-members

Courses are presented in a half-day format, morning and afternoon, with case rotations one-on-one with faculty via Zoom. Every case rotation includes direct feedback from the faculty examiner to identify your strengths and weaknesses.

Registrants can register for up to 2 sessions as the cases for the morning and the afternoon are different.

For more information or to register, contact Lora Finucane at loraf@icep.org.

ICEP.org



Illinois Members Serving on national ACEP Committees

44 Illinois members currently serve on a national ACEP Committee as of 2022. Here at ICEP we would like to take the time to recognize those individuals.

Academic Affairs Committee

- Jacqueline Marie Dziedzic, DO, FACEP
- Adriana Olson, MD, FACEP
- Archana Shah, MD, MBA
- James R Waymack, MD, FACEP

Awards Committee

- Susan Marie Nedza, MD, MBA, FACEP

Bylaws Committee

- Kurtis A Mayz, JD, MD, MBA, FACEP
- Scott H Pasichow, MD, MPH

CEDR - Clinical Emergency Data Registry Committee

- Emmanuel Ogele, MD
- Archana Shah, MD, MBA

Clinical Policies Research Subcommittee

- Michael Gottlieb, MD, FACEP

Coding & Nomenclature Advisory Committee

- Scott H Pasichow, MD, MPH
- Archana Shah, MD, MBA

Communications Committee

- Valerie M Roth, MD, FACEP
- Meeta P Shah, MD
- Nathan Seth Trueger, MD, MPH, FACEP

Disaster Preparedness & Response Committee

- Brigham Temple, MD, FACEP
- James R Waymack, MD, FACEP

Education Committee

- Christine Babcock, MD, FACEP
- John Michael Bailitz, MD, FACEP
- Michael Gottlieb, MD, FACEP

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Committee

- Howard K Mell, MD, MPH, CPE, FACEP

Emergency Medicine Practice Committee

- Mila L Felder, MD, FACEP
- Leslie S Zun, MD, FACEP

Ethics Committee

- Andrew Luke Aswegan, MD, FACEP

Federal Government Affairs Committee

- Amit D Arwindekar, MD, FACEP
- Susan Marie Nedza, MD, MBA, FACEP

HIT Committee

- Jonathan A Handler, MD, FACEP

International Emergency Medicine Committee

- Travis Wassermann, MD, MPH

Medical-Legal Committee

- Kurtis A Mayz, JD, MD, MBA, FACEP
- William P Sullivan, DO, JD, FACEP
- Joshua D Zimmerman, MD

Membership Committee

- Yanina Purim-Shem-Tov, MD, MS, FACEP

Public Health and Injury Prevention Committee

- Sobia Ansari, MD
- William Weber, MD, MPH

Quality and Patient Safety Committee

- Timothy M Loftus, MD, MBA, FACEP

Reimbursement Committee

- Archana Shah, MD, MBA

Research Committee

- Michael Gottlieb, MD, FACEP
- Howard Kim, MD, FACEP
- Danielle M McCarthy, MD, MS, FACEP
- Willard W Sharp, MD, FACEP

State Legislative/Regulatory Committee

- Henry Pitzele, MD, FACEP

Well-Being Committee

- Mila L Felder, MD, FACEP
- Meeta P Shah, MD
- Carissa J Tyo, MD, FACEP

Know an ICEP Member Deserving Recognition with an ICEP Award in 2022?

ICEP recognizes its dedicated leaders with three awards, presented each year at the Spring Symposium and Annual Business Meeting. Please consider nominating a colleague for one of ICEP's awards:

- **Bill B. Smiley Award** – ICEP's highest award that recognizes a member for a lifetime of service to ICEP and emergency medicine in Illinois
- **ICEP Meritorious Service Award** – This award is conferred on a member who has made a special contribution to ICEP through service, advocacy, education, or other contributions

- **Downstate Member Service Award** – This award recognizes the contributions of a member who lives and works outside the metropolitan Chicago area

All nominations must include the following:

- Candidate's CV
- Cover letter explaining your nomination
- If nominating a candidate for multiple positions, please send separate cover letters for each position

The Awards and Nominating Committee will evaluate all submissions and select the final

slate of candidates for each category.

To submit nominations, please email ICEP Executive Director Ginny Kennedy Palys at nykp@icep.org.

Nominations are due Friday, February 18.



ICEP Calendar *of* Events 2022

(Subject to change)

February 10, 2022

EM Update
Via Zoom

February 16, 2022

Advocacy Day
Via Zoom

March 14, 2022

Board Meeting
TBD

April 7, 2022

EM4Life - 2021 Articles
Downers Grove, IL

April 25 + 26, 2022

Oral Board Review
Via Zoom

April 29, 2022

Emergent Procedures
Evanston, IL

May 19, 2022

Spring Symposium
Chicago, IL

June 6, 2022

Board Meeting
TBD

August 25, 2022

Resident Career Day
Chicago, IL

August 29 + 30, 2022

Oral Board Review
Via Zoom

September 19, 2022

Board Meeting
TBD

October 14, 2022

Emergent Procedures
Evanston, IL

November 1, 2022

EM4Life - 2022 Articles
Downers Grove, IL

November 18, 2022

Oral Board Review
Via Zoom

December 7, 2022

Ultrasound for EM
Downers Grove, IL

December 12, 2022

Board Meeting
TBD

**See the latest at [ICEP.org](https://www.icep.org) and follow
on Facebook and Twitter!**



Illinois College of Emergency Physicians

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