

# ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

*EXPERT CARE FOR ANYONE, ANYWHERE,  
AT ANY TIME*



## ***Medicaid Reimbursement for Emergency Physicians***



Despite nominal increases, Medicaid reimbursement rates still fail to equitably reflect the important services provided by emergency physicians (EPs).



Illinois' low Medicaid reimbursement rate problem is compounded by the fact that EPs and hospital emergency departments (EDs) are mandated by law to stabilize and treat anyone, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

Since EPs provide care to all patients who walk through their doors, they are truly universal health care providers. EPs are proud of this, but it has complex implications.

There has also been a rise in the proportion of patients referred to the ED by primary care providers, creating significant difficulties in completing a complex work-up in the outpatient setting.

**Medicaid reimbursement rates are extremely important and currently unsustainable for many physicians in the state.**

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ICEP expresses our strong desire to see emergency physician services included in the proposed methods and standards \$97.7 million and \$5 million bonus rate increases for the Illinois Medicaid Practitioner Fee Schedule.



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## ***Fast Facts About Emergency Medicine***

**Access to emergency care is critical and more people rely on emergency physicians than ever before.**

One in three people in the U.S. come to the emergency department, for a total 150 million visits to the emergency department every year.

Emergency physicians are uniquely trained with the expertise to lead skilled care teams in thousands of emergency departments across the country.



**Nearly half** of all medical care in the United States is delivered in an emergency department.



**Nearly 70%** of emergency care goes uncompensated or undercompensated.



**Nine in ten** say it is essential to have 24/7 access to the ER, the highest of any utility or service that communities provide.



**Only 2.5%** of the patients seen in 2020 came to the emergency department for a non-urgent medical condition.



**More than half** of adults who sought immediate medical care chose to go to an emergency department because urgent care was unavailable, or they were referred by a medical provider.