

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

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Message from the President

Lisa Bundy, M.D., FACEP

It has been a busy and tumultuous time for us at Mississippi ACEP over the last couple of weeks. Winter Storm Fern barreled through North Mississippi, and our communities here got hit pretty hard. Here at Magnolia in Corinth, we lost power about 4 a.m. Sunday - I was covering the night shift, and we went on generator power. I had been staying in one of the call rooms in the hospital, since I knew driving back and forth to the hospital after freezing ice would be a perilous endeavor. By Sunday, our ED was full of patients, many

coming in because they had no power for their oxygen tanks. To help the flow of our ED, Dr. Steven Haywood, MRHC EM program director, created an “oxygen unit.” Patients who presented because their oxygen concentrators wouldn’t work due to lost power, and without any other complaints, were at first placed in a larger room near the ED, and they were eventually able to be moved to the warming center set up for the community.

Our EMS trucks were constantly running, not only for our patients in the county, but for patients requiring transfer, and the weather made it impossible to fly out patients. It was a long and challenging week. Our residents, faculty, and nurses, with the help of administration and our internal medicine colleagues, worked to take care of the rapid influx of patients desperate for help. Our team jumped in at every opportunity to help not only in the ED, but in the community as well. It really showed what emergency medicine means - to be there anytime, for anything, and for anyone.

If your hospital ED was affected, and your department employed innovative solutions during this storm, we’d love to hear about it. Ice storms are certainly not as common as tornadoes and hurricanes in Mississippi, and the challenges were relatively new to many of us.

The MS ACEP board has been following the legislature regarding the scope of practice bills that were presented, and we are excited to report that all died in the House and Senate committees! There were several that were related, but the main ones of concern that would grant independent practice to nurse practitioners and CRNAs were HB 311, HB 1313 and SB 2450. Interestingly, the House Public Welfare and Human Services Committee is chaired by Rep. Sam Creekmore, IV, (R-Dist. 14), actually sponsored the two bills in the house. The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee is chaired by Sen. Hob Bryan (D-Dist. 7), who appeared and met with physicians last year at the Scope of Practice Summit in Flowood, hosted by the Mississippi State Medical Association.

MS ACEP members should check out the updated ACEP clinical policy regarding NPs and PAs in the ED that was approved by the ACEP Board of Directors in late January. This new version makes it very clear that ACEP does not support NPs or PAs working in EDs alone at any time or any reason, regardless of telehealth availability. In the last year, South Carolina passed its own law requiring a physician in every ED 24/7, and Alabama has introduced its own bill this year. The hospital association lobby argues that rural EDs will close, but this has not happened in Indiana, Virginia, or South Carolina. It will be more challenging here, since we have a whopping 25% of our EDs staffed with NO physician; however, I believe it's time to start that conversation, and we are the organization to lead that effort.

In April, I will be heading to Washington for Leadership and Advocacy, and, if anyone is interested in attending this amazing conference, please let us know if you plan to be there. The best part is meeting with our legislators and telling our stories. Improving care, work environment, and well-being has to start with Congress and state legislatures. Funding our rural hospitals, CMS documentation burden, boarding, residency funding, and everything in between starts and ends with legislation. Therefore, if you want to see change, it's time to get involved. We need more voices and leaders in our state in order to be heard.

As always, should you have any questions, concerns, want to get involved, do not hesitate to contact myself, any member of the board, or, of course, our executive director Patrick O'Brien.

Be well and safe,

Lisa M. Bundy, MD, FACEP

President

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.](#)

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 Us

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