



**Both chambers are in session next week.**

**September 7, 2018**

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**Capital**

**Minute**

Here's a new edition of ACEP's Capital Minute for the first week of September, 2018; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNioQbHvPIs&feature=youtu.be> or click on the blue box below to view.



**ACEP Participates in NASEM Drug Shortage Workshop**

This week, ACEP Board member Aisha Liferidge, MD, FACEP, participated in the two-day workshop hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) on medical product shortages during disasters and discussed some of the unique challenges facing emergency physicians and their patients during these crises. The workshop was planned after recent disasters and public health emergencies, such as hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria and the Ebola outbreak, highlighted the impact that shortages of commonly used medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals had on health care delivery and emergency response. The panels explored opportunities to lessen the effects of medical product shortages through information sharing,

improved supply-chain infrastructure, and enhanced collaboration among public, private, and non-profit stakeholders.



Dr. Liferidge providing a recap of the first day's panelists and discussing the impact of drug shortages on emergency physicians and their patients.



U.S. Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Dr. Robert Kadlec and Dr. Liferidge.

### **Prescription Drug Pricing Bills Advance in Congress**

Today, the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee approved several bills designed to improve health care for patients. One of the bills, sponsored by Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA), would prohibit contractual “gag-clauses” that prevent pharmacists from telling customers that they could save money on a prescription by paying out-of-pocket instead of using their insurance benefits. Earlier this week, the Senate approved a similar bill (S. 2553) that applies to Medicare Advantage patients and Medicare Part D plans. Another Senate bill (S. 2554), which would apply the same rules to patients on ACA exchanges and in private health plans, is expected to be considered by the full Senate next week.

The E&C Health Subcommittee also approved a bill this morning that would give the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) access to drug pricing and rebate data to help Congress better understand the costs of prescription drugs.

### **ACEP Contributes to Development of Fentanyl Safety Video for First Responders Released by Federal Workgroup**

On Thursday, August 30, the Department of Justice (DOJ) hosted an event to announce the release of a safety video for first responders called [Fentanyl: The Real Deal](#). The DOJ worked with nine other Federal agencies as well as 24 stakeholder groups, including ACEP, to produce [written guidance](#) and this video that enforces the guidance. The guidance and the video include the following science-based recommendations to help first responders protect themselves when the presence of fentanyl is suspected or encountered:

- Actions first responders can take to protect themselves from exposure;
- Actions first responders can take when exposure occurs; and
- Actions first responders can take when they or their partners exhibit signs of opioid intoxication.

## **Federal Advisory Committee Recommends ACEP-Proposed Alternative Payment Model to HHS**

On Thursday, September 6, the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) voted in favor of recommending ACEP's proposed alternative payment model (APM), the [Acute Unscheduled Care Model \(AUCM\)](#), to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for full implementation. As part of the PTAC's assessment of the AUCM, the PTAC also concluded that the model met all ten of the Secretary's criteria for evaluating physician-focused APMs.

ACEP believes that the AUCM has the potential to transform the way emergency care is delivered. The model aims to improve quality and reduce costs in Medicare by allowing emergency physicians to accept some financial risk for the decisions they make around discharges for certain episodes of acute unscheduled care. While Thursday's PTAC recommendation is a victory worth celebrating for emergency medicine, there is still a long road ahead before the model becomes operational. With PTAC's endorsement, ACEP will begin discussions with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) about implementation.

To see ACEP's press release announcing the PTAC's vote, please click [here](#).

### **NEMPAC at ACEP18**

**To celebrate 50 years of ACEP and advocacy on behalf of emergency medicine and patients, NEMPAC is hosting several events to thank and recognize ACEP members for their support.**

#### **NEMPAC VIP Donor Reception**

*Donors contributing at the Platinum, 10-Year and 5-Year "Give-a-Shift" level are invited and may bring one guest.*

Monday/5:00 – 6:30 pm

San Diego Wine and Culinary Center

#### **NEMPAC Donor Celebration**

*Donors contributing \$500 or more (\$50 for Residents and Med Students, \$365 for Retired and Transitioning Members) are invited. Platinum and "Give-a-Shift" donors may bring one guest.*

Monday/6:30 – 8:30 pm

USS Midway

#### **NEMPAC "Give-a-Shift" Donor Lounge**

*Open to Platinum and "Give-a-Shift" donors*

Monday – Wednesday/8:00 am – 4:00 pm

San Diego Convention Center, Sails Pavilion

Complimentary breakfast, lunch, & snacks provided along with professional shoulder/neck massage and complimentary use of computers, printers, and television.

#### **NEMPAC 2018 VIP Donor Perk**

*Donors contributing at the Platinum, Give-a-Shift and Sterling levels are eligible for this event.*

Wednesday, October 10

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

Save the Date for an exclusive tele-town hall with Nathan Gonzales, Inside Elections expert!

To renew your NEMPAC contribution, please go to [www.emergencyphysicianspac.org](http://www.emergencyphysicianspac.org)

If you have questions about NEMPAC or the events listed above, please contact [Jeanne Slade](#) or [Caitlin Demchuk](#) in the ACEP Washington DC office.

**Save the Date: 11/30 – 12/1 Specialty Physician and Dentist Candidate Workshop in Washington, DC**

Are you interested in running for office on the local, state or federal level? We are looking for two active ACEP Members and dedicated 911 Network participants to attend the Specialty Physician and Dentist Candidate Workshop. This exclusive two-day training takes place in Washington, DC and provides best practices and insider knowledge for how to get elected – from physicians who are already in office! The NEMPAC Board will select two ACEP members to attend this workshop. Travel expenses and registration will be covered by ACEP. Questions? Contact Jeanne Slade at [jslade@acep.org](mailto:jslade@acep.org) for more information.



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