



May 4, 2018

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Help ACEP Go Viral with New Videos about Anthem Denials of Emergency Coverage**
- **ACEP Responds to HELP Committee PAHPA Draft**
- **Save the Date: ACEP Town Hall on Gun Safety June 5, 2018**
- **ACEP Response to the “Controlled Substances Quotas” Proposed Rule**

Help ACEP Go Viral with New Videos about Anthem Denials of Emergency Coverage

ACEP recently launched a new video campaign to continue exposing Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for denying coverage to emergency patients, based on an undisclosed list of diagnoses, for conditions the insurance giant considers non-urgent. This policy is active in six states — Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, New Hampshire and Ohio — but more Anthem states will follow, and more health insurance companies, if this effort isn’t stopped. ACEP issued a [press release](#) earlier this week.

Please help us make the videos go viral by copying and sharing the link on social media. Post to Facebook, e-mail it to colleagues, and Tweet about it using #FairCoverage and #StopAnthemBCBS. The more the video gets shared, the more likely we will go viral!

You can share the videos from www.FairCoverage.org or use the direct links below:

- Aneurysm or stomach cramps?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GB28DDFnDFk>
- Chest pain or injured ribs?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqyHWOSI340>

Suggested Tweets:

- If Anthem disagrees with your decision to go to the ER, they’ll deny you coverage. Stop this misguided policy! #FairCoverage.org #StopAnthemBCBS
- Anthem’s new policy will scare away patients who need emergency care. Take a stand for #FairCoverage.
- Don’t let Anthem force patients to play doctor. How can patients be expected to self-diagnose? Anthem’s policy is dangerous, puts lives at risk. #FairCoverage.

ACEP Responds to HELP Committee PAHPA Draft

As reported last week, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee released a discussion draft of legislation to reauthorize the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), the law concerning the country’s public health

preparedness and response framework. The committee requested comments from ACEP and other stakeholders regarding the draft legislative text by today. We expect the committee to revise the draft text and mark-up the legislation before the Memorial Day recess begins at the end of the month.

To see ACEP's response to the committee, click [here](#).

Save the Date: ACEP Town Hall on Gun Safety June 5, 2018

Please save the date for an ACEP Town Hall with Congressman Seth Moulton on June 5th from 6-6:30pm EST. Congressman Moulton will provide a brief overview of his work and experiences as a Member of Congress working to enact commonsense gun safety legislation. Congressman Moulton is also eager to engage in Q&A with ACEP members to learn more about what members care about, how he can help support your work, and how together we can work on creating solutions to gun violence that keep our communities and families safer. Keep an eye on your inbox for additional details regarding the town hall.

ACEP recently joined with 80 national medical, public health, and research organizations to send a joint letter to House and Senate leaders regarding CDC funding for firearms injury prevention. In the letter, we asked the leadership to provide \$50 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention as consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. To view the full letters, please use these links: [Senate letter](#) and [House letter](#).

ACEP Response to the "Controlled Substances Quotas" Proposed Rule

On May 4, ACEP submitted comments on a proposed rule put out by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) that would strengthen the DEA's control over the diversion of controlled substances and would make other changes to how the agency sets quotas for the production, manufacturing, and procurement of controlled substances. While ACEP supports the DEA's effort to make sure controlled substances are used only for their intended purposes, we believe that it is important to set appropriate production quotas of controlled substances to ensure that hospitals and emergency departments have enough drugs and treatments to care for the patients they serve.

The diversion of controlled substances from medical to non-medical purposes has become a significant public health problem. However, another pressing problem for emergency providers that the DEA must continue to take action on is the significant drug shortage problem we are facing in this country. With respect to emergency medicine, just this week, a major supplier of medications reports there are 156 emergency medication preparations and 50 intravenous fluid preparations that are not available. ACEP is extremely concerned that drug shortages have jeopardized the safety of our patients, especially during and after natural disasters and other mass casualty events. We believe the issue of drug shortages is a substantial threat to our nation's preparedness and response capabilities, and we urge the DEA to seek a coordinated response with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) within the

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We also encourage the DEA to be much more proactive going forward in listening to stakeholder feedback and identifying and reacting to manufacturer production challenges, issues with the supply chain, and other factors, including large-scale disasters, that impact the ability for hospitals and emergency departments to receive vital medications. Our full set of comments on the rule is found [here](#).



[Connect with us on](#)  Facebook and  Twitter!

To ensure delivery to your inbox, add ACEP@acep.org & JSlade@acep.org to your address book.
Copyright © 2017 American College of Emergency Physicians. All rights reserved.
View the ACEP [privacy policy](#).

ACEP Public Affairs | 2121 K Street, NW Suite 325 | Washington, DC 20037
[Click here to unsubscribe.](#)