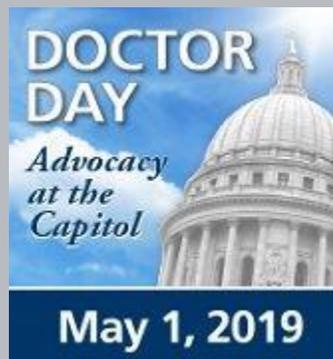


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President's Message



*Jeff Pothof, MD
WACEP President*

You know we all practice in a special place when you can run in shorts and a t-shirt and two days later be shoveling a few inches of snow. With the warmer weather comes an important annual event in the state.

Known as "Doctor Day" we all have an opportunity to don a white coat and engage in face to face conversation with those individuals whose decisions affect not only our practice, but the lives and wellness of our patients. This year is particularly impactful for us as emergency physicians as we have many issues important to our specialty that need legislative support.

For those of you who have participated in the past, thank you. If you've never attended a Doctor Day and can find some time to get away on May 1, I'm certain it would be worth your effort. WACEP will be hosting a private policy primer update beforehand to prepare all of you on the key issues. The Doctor Day agenda itself promises to be high yield. We have Wisconsin's governor Tony Evers slated to speak and the topics that will be front and center for the day include Medicaid access and the historically low reimbursement rates in Wisconsin, as well as the extremely hot topic of childhood vaccination and personal conviction exemptions. I'm nearly certain all of you have an opinion on that topic. The day wraps up with time for you and other providers to talk with legislatures, and finishes with a reception close by at Madison's on King.

For more details and the link to register please visit <https://www.widoctorday.org>.

Submit a News
Story for the
Website



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Appropriate Use Criteria



*Lisa Maurer, MD
Immediate Past President*

As a part of replacing the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR), CMS has deemed that we must start reviewing "appropriate use criteria" (AUC) before ordering any CT, MRI, PET, or nuclear medicine studies (does not apply to Xray, U/S). The American College of Radiology (ACR) has been approved as an eligible group to participate in defining what is and isn't "appropriate."

Starting in 2021, if an ordering physician does not demonstrate through an EHR Clinical Decision Support tool (CDS) that they have consulted the AUC for the study your ordering, CMS will not reimburse the professional or technical charges for the study.

To clarify, you have to review the AUC, but not necessarily adhere to them. Emergency physicians will find it to be important because CMS also gives radiologists the green light to refuse to do the studies for which appropriateness criteria were not reviewed. This system is already in place in the ambulatory care setting. It will be implemented in the emergency department in less than a year, on Jan 1 2020, but the first year is for "education and operations" and no claims will be denied. [Read more.](#)

Falco Meets with U.S. Rep Steil

On March 21, WACEP Delegation Chair, Dr. Bill Falco, met with Congressman Bryan Steil, who represents the 1st District of Wisconsin in the U.S. House of Representatives.



The meeting was coordinated as part of an aggressive push by ACEP for members of ACEP's 911 Network to meet with many of the nearly 100 new members who were sworn in to the 116th Congress on January 3rd.

During the meeting, Dr. Falco had an opportunity to introduce Rep. Steil to ACEP and to share pertinent information on the specialty of emergency medicine and its role in the health care delivery system. Dr. Falco successfully established himself as a local contact in the health care space, as evident by the invitation he received to serve on Rep. Steil's healthcare advisory panel.

Spring Legislative Update

Eric Jensen, WACEP Lobbyist

In November, Wisconsin elected Democrat Tony Evers as its 46th Governor, and simultaneously returned large Republican majorities to both the State Assembly and State Senate. This ended nearly a decade of total Republican control of Wisconsin state politics, and gave Wisconsin split control of state politics for the first time in more than a decade.

As with each Legislative session, the State Budget will dominate the first half of the 2019-20 Session. On February 28th Governor Evers introduced his Biennial Budget proposal, including a variety of items of interest to physicians. [Read more.](#)

2019 WMS House of Delegates Recap



*Bradley Burmeister, MD,
Emergency Medicine Delegate to WMS*

The Wisconsin Medical Society House of Delegates met on Sunday, April 7, 2019. Several Emergency physicians participated in the annual policy-making function of the society. Three resolutions introduced and sponsored by WACEP were discussed and accepted as policy. [Read more.](#)

Visit the Hill! LAC is May 5-8

With federal lawmakers actively working on legislation to address the surprise billing/out-of-network payment issue that is expected to move in the Senate by June, ACEP member advocacy at the 2019 Leadership and Advocacy Conference could be hugely consequential for the future of emergency medicine. Visits to the Hill to advocate on critical issues like this do make a difference. Learn more and register to attend LAC at www.ACEP.org/LAC.

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