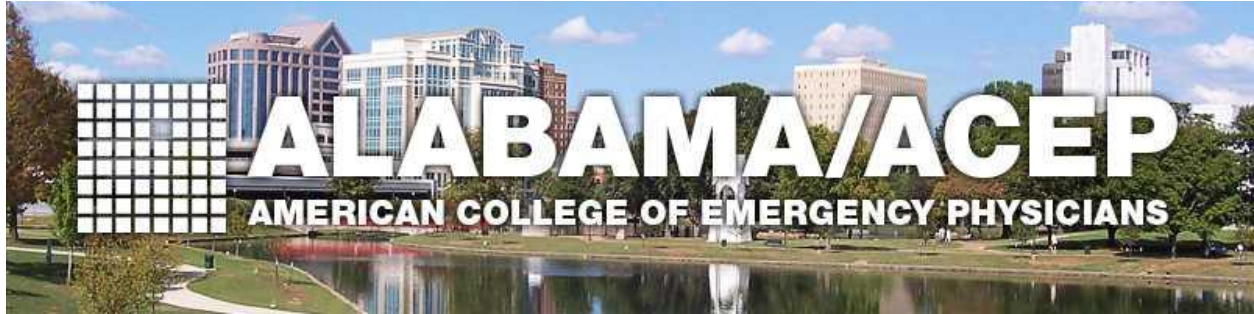


A Newsletter for the Members of the Alabama Chapter - Fall 2023



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**In this edition:**

[Congratulations to Dr. Kivela](#)  
[Blue Cross to Begin Paying Prolonged Services Codes](#)  
[Medical Association of the State of Alabama Launches Workforce Survey to Identify Medical Association Kicks Off 11 Regional Receptions Tour Across Alabama](#)  
[EMerald Coast 2024](#)  
[Physician Support](#)

**News from ACEP:**

[Resources and Latest News](#)  
[Grassroots Advocacy](#)  
[Upcoming ACEP Events & Deadlines](#)

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**Congratulations to Dr. Kivela!**

# Congratulation

## 2023 John G. Wiegenstein Leadership Award

*Congratulations to Dr. Kivela on receiving the 2023 John G. Wiegenstein Award. This prestigious award represents the epitome of leadership, both personally and professionally.*

**Paul Kivela, MD, MBA, FACEP**  
Clinical Professor and Emergency Physician,  
University of Alabama at Birmingham



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## Blue Cross to Begin Paying Prolonged Services Codes

At the urging of the Medical Association and its Third Party Task Force, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has announced that they will begin reimbursing for “prolonged services codes” effective September 1, 2023. An announcement of the new payment policy has been sent out to providers. You can find more information about the policy below.

The Medical Association appreciates Blue Cross agreeing to pay for these codes which will allow physicians to bill for services that are provided beyond the typical E/M codes.

### **Prolonged Services Policy**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama will consider reimbursement for prolonged physician services CPT/HCPCS codes for dates of service on and after September 1, 2023.

Prolonged services are defined as services that a physician provides beyond the usual service in either the inpatient or outpatient setting. This policy addresses the coverage and reimbursement for prolonged services.

This policy defines and provides examples for using the following CPT/HCPCS codes:

<b>CPT CODE</b>	<b>DURATION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM AMOUNT</b>
99415	60 minutes	1 unit
99416	30 minutes	2 units
99417	15 minutes	4 units
99418	15 minutes	4 units

For Medicare-related claims only:

- G0513
- G0514
- G2212

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### **Medical Association of the State of Alabama Launches Workforce Survey to Identify Solutions to Physician Shortage**

Alabama's health care delivery system faces significant challenges, especially in regard to its health care workforce. With respect to the state's physician workforce in particular, your participation in the Medical Association's survey below will help identify broad areas of concern for MDs and DOs and ultimately inform the solutions the Association proposes to combat them. Please forward the survey to your membership list.

[Take survey here](#)

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# WHY I GIVE



"I give to ALAPAC because it truly matters who represents us in Montgomery and across the state! Healthcare policy evolves quickly and medicine needs a seat at the table and ALAPAC helps provide that. When laws change, it affects not only us as emergency physicians but also our patients. We must each do our part to support ALAPAC's efforts on our behalf."

**Bryan Balentine,**  
**M.D., FACEP,**  
*Emergency  
Physician and  
Member,  
ALAPAC  
Birmingham  
Regional Board*



**Text ALAPAC to 91999  
to donate today!**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PAC CONTRIBUTIONS. Contributions to Alabama Medical PAC (ALAPAC) are not tax deductible. Political contributions to ALAPAC are voluntary and are not limited to the suggested amount. The Medical Association will not favor or disadvantage any person based on the amount of the member's contribution or a failure to contribute. This is not a solicitation for PAC contributions from any individuals who are foreign nationals (non-green-card holders). Contributions by foreign nationals are prohibited by Federal law.

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## **Medical Association Kicks Off 11 Regional Receptions Tour Across Alabama**

This Fall, the Medical Association's Governmental Relations team kicked off its Regional Receptions Tour across the state to bring lawmakers and physicians together to help discuss issues affecting medicine in Alabama. Partnering with 9 medical specialty societies -- including the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians -- the Association is working to host 11 receptions reaching from Mobile to the Shoals area of Alabama and many places in between.

At each of these receptions, the Association and other partnering specialties present information to lawmakers to educate them on a variety of topics of interest to physicians and patients. Local physician involvement is vital to the Medical Association's success for its members and the patients under their care. These receptions serve as an excellent opportunity for physicians and local lawmakers to interact and discuss the challenges medicine faces in maintaining access to quality care for patients.

These 11 receptions offer a first-rate occasion for a supportive, multi-specialty effort to proactively educate lawmakers on issues of interest to medicine and foster strong working relationships between local physicians and their elected officials. While the Association and its Government Relations team serve as the "boots on the ground" when working with legislators on health care policy in Alabama, there is no more impactful outreach to legislators on health care issues than that of a local physician constituent.

The Medical Association appreciates the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians and its members for participating in these events.

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## **EMerald Coast 2024**

You're invited to our 2024 EMerald Coast Conference at Sandestin beach and golf resort, June 3-6, 2024! If you are interested in presenting at the EMerald Coast Conference in 2024, [please complete this form](#).



THE  
**EMERALD COAST**  
CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE DATE**

**June 3-6, 2024**

[www.alacep.org/education-and-cme/](http://www.alacep.org/education-and-cme/)

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**Physician Support**



American College of  
Emergency Physicians®  
ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE

**PHYSICIAN SUPPORT**

*If you have been affected by the American Physician Partners Bankruptcy we want to hear from you. Please email Meghan Martin at [mmartin@alamedical.org](mailto:mmartin@alamedical.org) to share your experience so that we can better serve our members through these changes.*

If you have a recent case study that you would like to submit to our quarterly newsletter for publication email [Meghan Martin](mailto:Meghan.Martin@acep.org).

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## FROM NATIONAL ACEP



### ACEP Resources & Latest News

#### **ACEP Blunts Medicare Cuts in 2024 Physician Fee Schedule**

CMS recently released the Physician Fee Schedule PFS for calendar year 2024, which includes some wins for you and your patients, thanks to ACEP's involvement. Other provisions are concerning and ACEP continues to fight for favorable solutions. Our goal is to ensure your work is valued appropriately. [Read ACEP's detailed analysis.](#)

#### **ACEP Council Tackles Key Issues During Philadelphia Meeting**

More than 60 resolutions were considered during the ACEP23 Council Meeting in Philadelphia in October, with many of them drawing considerable debate before 44 were ultimately adopted. [Learn more](#)

#### **New Career Resources:**

- You asked for it. ACEP delivered. ACEP's **Open Book** addresses your need for employer transparency. Gain access to information about employer group structure, leadership and more | [openbook.acep.org](https://openbook.acep.org)
- **Practice Essentials of Emergency Medicine** augments your knowledge of several critical business topics: Reimbursement, Contracts and Practice Models, Negotiations, Operations Management, Risk Management and More. It's **FREE** for ACEP members | [acep.org/practiceessentials](https://acep.org/practiceessentials)
- **Find More Fulfillment in Your Career.** ACEP has published a new wellness guide, [From Self to System – Being Well in Emergency Medicine](#), which offers practical solutions to many of the systemic issues that plague emergency physicians today. Thank you to the countless authors and contributors who brought together these valuable resources.

**ACEP in Action:** We are committed to listening to, and learning from, the challenges that physicians face on each shift and to being your network of support in this difficult environment. Actions speak louder than words. We are tackling the

issues that matter most to you. Our efforts are stronger when we stand united. [Read More.](#)

### Fighting for You on Shift

- ACEP convened health care stakeholders in September to discuss barriers and solutions at our ED Boarding Summit
- We have released poll results about the public's concern about boarding in the ED | [acep.org/boarding](https://acep.org/boarding)
- This [ACEP Now boarding series](#) keeps you updated on the latest boarding news and opinions
- [Contact Congress about the ED Boarding Crisis](#)

### Getting it Done in D.C.

- ACEP has been involved in **NINE recent lawsuits** to protect your autonomy and [ensure fair reimbursement](#)
- We have invested more than \$1 million of member dues dollars to [push back on scope creep](#) at the federal and state levels

**Member Benefit Spotlight:** Map out your spending and investment accounts, retirement projections, and goal projections in one secure online platform with My Financial Coach. [Read more.](#)

**Learn More about OUD Management With E-QUAL**, a free online, low-burden quality improvement program. E-QUAL is now accepting enrollment in its 2024 substance use disorder initiative where you can discover best practices for ED opioid prescribing, earn credit for CMS' MIPS program and get real-time benchmarking data. [Learn more and sign up today.](#)

## ACEP Grassroots Advocacy

### Urge Congress to Prevent Workplace Violence in the ED

ACEP is continuing its mission to bring both Congressional and public attention to the growing problem of violence against health care workers. [A recent video article](#) in the *New York Times* highlights the crisis of violence in emergency departments and includes compelling testimonials from emergency physicians and other health care workers about its impact on their ability to provide care to patients.

We urge you to [share the video with your legislators](#) to reinforce the urgency of the problem and the need for Congressional action. Your legislators need to hear from physicians who are experiencing and witnessing this crisis on the frontlines of our health care system so they will prioritize swift action in this Congress.

### Be an Advocate for Emergency Medicine and Patients

Join with your ACEP colleagues to advocate to Congress. As a physician, health care issue expert, and constituent - you have a unique story to share. [Visit the ACEP Advocacy Action Center.](#)



## Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

**Dec 7:** [Hot Off the Presses: Key Reimbursement from the 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#)

**Jan 9-10:** [ACEP Advanced EM Ultrasonography \(AEMUS\)](#)

**Jan 29-30:** [ACEP Advanced EM Ultrasonography \(AEMUS\)](#)

**Feb 6-8:** [Independent EM Group Master Class](#)

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## Contact Alabama ACEP

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## Alabama ACEP

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