

ALABAMA CHAPTER

American College of Emergency Physicians

Supporting the Growth of Emergency Medicine Education in Alabama

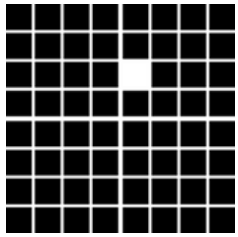
The Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ALACEP) strives to improve patient care for all people in Alabama, and as such views residency training in Emergency Medicine and ABEM/ABOEM certification as a gold standard for emergency medicine providers in the state.

Therefore, ALACEP:

Supports the growth of residency training programs in the state of Alabama.

Supports initiatives to recruit and retain emergency medicine trained physicians in Alabama.

Supports initiatives to educate all physicians in emergency care but does not view alternative specialty certifications as equivalent to ABEM/ABOEM certification.



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Supporting Physician-Led Teams and Emergency Physician Leadership in the Emergency Department

The Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ALACEP) strongly supports physician-led teams in the Emergency Department (ED). ALACEP recognizes the uniquely collaborative nature of the care provided in the Emergency Department, and the pivotal role that each member of the care team provides. Furthermore, ALACEP fully acknowledges the value that all members of the team including Physician Assistants (PAs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Pharmacists, Respiratory Therapists, and Certified Emergency Nurses (RNs) add to the overall care of patients. ALACEP feels strongly that this team is best able to provide the highest quality care when led by a physician trained in the specialty, and that emergency departments throughout the state should require physician coverage in the department at all times.

The state of Alabama contains a large number of rural and critical access hospitals, many of which face significant challenges with staffing. Nevertheless, all citizens of Alabama should have access to the highest quality care possible, regardless of location.

For the above reasons, ALACEP strongly supports the following:

- ABEM/ABOEM certified emergency physicians should provide the majority of emergency care wherever possible in Alabama.
- Departmental administrative roles should be served by a physician who is board certified in Emergency Medicine.
- Emergency Department leadership should be empowered to ensure adequate and appropriate physician staffing ratios

ALACEP strongly supports any initiative promoting emergency care being primarily provided by board certified EM physicians and health care system support for adequately staffed EDs. This includes programs which incentivize physician recruitment and retention in rural Emergency Departments.