



American College of
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

POLICY STATEMENT

Approved February 2020

Clinical Guidelines Affecting Emergency Medicine Practice

Revised February 2020,
January 2014 with current
title

Reaffirmed October 2007

Originally approved July
2001 titled "Voluntary
Guidelines for Emergency
Medicine Practice"

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) believes that emergency medicine should provide the highest quality of patient care and service based on current research and available resources. While clinical practice guidelines do not represent the standard of care and do not supersede individual clinician judgment, they are vital adjuncts to decision making. Guidelines emanating from organizations including insurance entities, governmental agencies, and other medical societies may affect emergency medicine patient care. Ideally, any guidelines directly applicable to emergency medicine practice should originate from emergency medicine physicians. However, when developed by an outside organization, guidelines related to the practice of emergency medicine should be developed with significant emergency physician collaboration and implemented with emergency physician oversight.