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### **Capital (30) Minutes**

ACEP's Capital (30) Minutes webinar will resume on Thursday, September 3rd. [Click here](#) to register and view the schedule of future airings.

### **House Companion to "Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act" Introduced**

#### **[Take Action](#) to Urge Congressional Support for Mental Health Resources and Protections for Emergency Physicians**

On August 22, the "Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act" (H.R. 8094) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Max Rose (D-NY). The legislation is identical to the bill introduced in the Senate at the end of July and is similarly bipartisan, with Reps. David McKinley (R-WV), Anthony Brindisi (D-NY), Denver Riggleman (R-VA), Gil Cisneros (D-CA), Morgan Griffith (R-VA), and Fred Upton (R-MI) joining as original cosponsors. As you may recall, ACEP worked closely with the Senate sponsors of this legislation that will take major steps to reduce and prevent suicide and burnout, and alleviate other mental health concerns that have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation is named for Dr. Lorna Breen, an emergency physician and ACEP member who died by suicide earlier this year.

Similar to the ACEP-supported "Coronavirus Health Care Worker Wellness Act" (H.R. 7255) introduced by Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), the legislation provides grants to establish or expand mental health support services and resources for health care professionals responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and initiates a comprehensive federal study into health care professional mental health and burnout, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill also creates mental health and well-being training programs throughout the medical training and education process and establishes a national campaign to encourage health care professionals to seek support and treatment.

### **ACEP's 2020 Voter Resources**

ACEP created a special tool to help you engage in the 2020 elections and beyond, the [ACEP Civic Action Center](#), a non-partisan resource where you can easily check if you are registered to vote, how to vote early or request an absentee ballot. You can also share with colleagues, family and friends. [Check it out](#) today!

## **NEMPAC Charity Match**

While [making your contribution to NEMPAC](#), you will have the opportunity to select one of three COVID-19 related charities that ACEP will match 10 cents on every dollar of your donation. It is our way of thanking you for your support and giving back during these unprecedented times. Join your fellow ACEP members to support meaningful political and charitable involvement.

**After making your donation online, you will be asked to select one of these charities for the match.**

### **Eligible charities are:**

- [GetUsPPE.org](#)
- [Emergency Medicine Foundation/COVID-19 EM Research](#)
- [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)

**[Click here](#) to make your donation and select a charity!**

## **ACEP20 Features 250+ Courses, Plus Special Guest Dr. Anthony Fauci**

The ACEP20 lineup is getting stronger every day! NAIAD Director Anthony Fauci, MD, will provide his unique perspective from the epicenter of the pandemic to kick off the ACEP20 opening session. Following Dr. Fauci's remarks, a panel of international emergency physicians will present "Lessons Learned: Global Response to COVID-19."

There has never been a better time for emergency medicine to come together than at ACEP20. Learn important clinical updates from your colleagues, including a track of 14 courses on Health Policy. Explore new tools and devices to help make your practice easier. And lift your heart as we collectively take the time to celebrate emergency medicine's achievements at this year's unconventional annual meeting, Oct. 26-29. ACEP20 will be so much more than a convention! [Learn more and register today!](#)

## **Regs & Eggs: Trump Administration Continues to Chip Away at Affordable Care Act Requirements**

The Regs & Eggs webpage has been revamped! Check it out [here](#)! Besides the weekly posts, the site will also now include other important regulatory updates that emergency physicians should know about. In addition, you can more easily find previous posts by searching by topic area.

This week's [Regs & Eggs blog](#) highlights recent policies and initiatives that the Trump Administration has implemented to undermine key aspects of the Affordable Care Act and discusses how ACEP has responded to them.

## **CMS Issues Third COVID-19 Regulation**

On Tuesday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its [third regulation](#) related to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) response. To read more about the previous two regulations, please [click here](#).

Some key highlights of the regulation include:

- **Requiring hospitals to report [COVID-19 data](#) (statistics on a hospital's number of suspected or confirmed patients with Covid-19; number of occupied ICU beds; and supplies of equipment essential for treating COVID-19 patients such as PPE and ventilators) to the White House's COVID-19 Task Force. CMS is tying these new requirements to the "conditions of participation" requirements for Medicare and Medicaid, meaning that if hospitals do not report these data elements, they could be kicked out of both programs.** The American Hospital Association (AHA) has already come out in [opposition](#) to this new requirement, saying that the penalty for not complying is too harsh.
- **Limiting Medicare coverage for repeated COVID-19 testing for beneficiaries to *only one test* unless repeat testing is ordered by a physician/practitioner.**
- Establishing a new requirement for long-term care facilities for COVID-19 testing of facility residents and staff.
- Establishing new weekly Covid-19 reporting requirements for nursing homes.

- Implementing new reporting requirements and related penalties for labs performing COVID-19 tests.

### **The CDC Revises Guidance on Testing**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made a [controversial change](#) to its guidance on who should receive a test, now **not** explicitly recommending that everyone who comes into contact with a person with COVID-19 should receive a test. Previously, the [CDC website stated](#): "Testing is recommended for all close contacts of persons with SARS-CoV-2 infection. Because of the potential for asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, it is important that contacts of individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection be quickly identified and tested." The CDC [changed the site](#) on Monday, now [saying](#) that "if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet) of a person with a COVID-19 infection for at least 15 minutes but do not have symptoms, you do not necessarily need a test unless you are a vulnerable individual or your health care provider or State or local public health officials recommend you take one."

### **ACEP Sends Letter to HRSA Outlining Concerns with the COVID-19 Uninsured Program**

On Thursday, ACEP sent a [letter](#) to the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) outlining concerns with the implementation of the COVID-19 Uninsured Program. This important program provides reimbursement at Medicare rates for COVID-19 treatment and testing and testing-related services delivered to patients who are uninsured. ACEP has received numerous reports from emergency physicians that seemingly legitimate claims under the Uninsured Program are being denied. As outlined in the letter, ACEP is requesting that HRSA make programmatic changes to the Uninsured Program to address the underlying issues that are causing these denials.

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