

Final Committee Objectives 2021-22

Medical-Legal Committee

Chair: Rade Vukmir, MD, JD, FACEP

Board Liaison: Heidi Knowles, MD, FACEP

Staff Liaison: Harry Monroe

1. Develop a peer-to-peer assistance program to provide individual guidance to ACEP members on medical-legal related issues, and other issues as directed by the Board and in conjunction with experts from other appropriate committees or sections of the College.
2. Participate in the review of new clinical policies and provide information on potential medical-legal issues.
3. Explore opportunities with the State Legislative/Regulatory Committee to create and expand state tort reform efforts to provide additional legal protections for emergency physicians, particularly in the areas of disaster response and telehealth. (Medical-Legal is the lead committee.)
4. Revise and update the information paper “Advanced Practice Providers (Physician Assistant and Nurse Practitioner) Medical-Legal Issues” to address medical-legal concerns related to inappropriate scope of practice and inadequate supervision of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in emergency medicine.
5. Develop an information paper regarding the corporate practice of medicine, fee splitting, anti-trust issues related to GME, and exhibitors or sponsors at ACEP meetings. Obtain input from the Ethics Committee. (Medical-Legal is the lead committee)
6. Continue to work with EMRA to identify and address emergency residents’ needs for medical-legal education (employment contracts, EMTALA, etc.)
7. Continue work to further diversify the Medical-Legal Committee membership and mentor new committee members.
8. Review the following policies per the Policy Sunset Review Process:
 - Anonymous Affidavits of Merit

Determine by December 15 if the policies should be reaffirmed, revised, rescinded, or sunsetted. Submit any proposed revisions to the Board for approval by the end of the committee year.
9. Serve as a resource to the ED Accreditation Task Force on standards for fair contracting.
10. Serve as a resource to the Health Information Technology Committee to develop a work product that guides emergency physicians on clear, effective, accurate documentation, and how departments can leverage IT tools to monitor sources of “note bloat.” (Health Information Technology is the lead committee.)
11. Serve as a resource to the Ethics Committee in their development of an information paper on ethics and oversight of for-profit entities funding medical schools, emergency medicine residencies, and fellowships. (Ethics is the lead committee.)
12. Develop a definition of due process and understanding of the process of physician rights and implementation of due process. Develop model language of due process clause.
13. Serve as a resource to the Ethics Committee and the State Legislative/Regulatory Committee to develop a policy statement and Policy Resource & Education Paper (PREP) to address Amended Resolution 52(21) Standardization of Medical Screening Exams of Arrested Persons Brought to the ED. (Ethics is the lead committee.)
14. Collaborate with the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee; Diversity, Inclusion, & Health Equity Section;

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and the Social Emergency Medicine Section to develop a policy statement and Policy Resource & Education Paper (PREP) to Amended Resolution 54(21) Understanding the Effects of Law Enforcement Presence in the Emergency Department. (Medical-Legal is the lead committee.)

15. Review Referred Resolution 43(21) Autonomous “Shared Governance” Due Process and provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors on the advisability of implementing this resolution. ACEP’s General Counsel to assist in providing a legal opinion on the advisability of implementing this resolution and seek an opinion from outside legal counsel if needed.
16. Serve as a resource to the Medical-Legal Committee to review Referred Resolution 51(21) Medical Bill of Rights for Detained and Incarcerated Persons While Receiving Emergency Medical Care and provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors. (Ethics is the lead committee.)