



American College of  
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

# POLICY STATEMENT

Approved January 2021

## *Definition of an Emergency Service*

Reaffirmed January 2021,  
June 2015, October 2002,  
October 1998

Revised April 2009, January  
1994 with current title

Originally approved October  
1982 titled “Bona Fide  
Emergency Defined”

An emergency service is any health care service provided to evaluate and/or treat any medical condition such that a prudent layperson possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, believes that immediate unscheduled medical care is required.