# IEPC Newsletter August 2023

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# Emergency Medicine Reimbursement Update\*

Written by John G. Wallace, Jr MD, FACEP, DABIM President/Treasurer IEPC

\*Abstracted from the CAL ACEP Reimbursement Committee

- MEDI-CAL Rate Increase

   \$35 Billion budgeted for 16 million California Medi Cal patients is largest investment in Medi Cal ever
  - Largely paid for by MCO Tax on health plans
  - First rate increase in 20 years increases Medi Cal rates to 87.5% Medicare
  - °\$1 Billion Primary Care
  - \$1 Billion Specialties primarily women and child care
  - \$700 million Behavioral Health and \$300 million for additional beds
  - \$200 million Emergency Services
  - Conjoint effort of CMA, CAL ACEP and 600 MDs who contacted legislators
  - Scheduled for 2025 and need vigilance to make sure bill is funded with possible ballot issue to ensure funding doesn't disappear.

#### II. NSA

- EDPMA developing document to present to US Sec of Health Becerra to change the flawed IDR procedure
- ° IDR Health Plan Tricks:
  - HPs apply payments from IDR to patient's deductibles and therefore MDs can't bill patients
  - HPs tell MDs to bill patients which violates NSA
  - HPs either no pay, pay less than award, or charge patients
  - HPs pay patients not Providers
- III. Anthem No Pay-Anthem ABX "Special Investigations Unit" Pre payment Review Program (PRP)
  - ° Denying EKG payments as not part of MDM
  - Workup not what you do but what you recommend e.g. ordering CT not part of workup but recommending another MD order CT is. Inappropriate application of

#### Marshfield Audit Tool

 Payment based on final diagnosis as risk determinant which violates prudent lay person

#### IV. KAISER

- ° CAL ACEP- 2 meetings with DMHC
- DMHC requested IDR which is flawed response:
  1. voluntary for HPs in California and 2. Arbiter can't determine methodology of payment employing Gould Criteria
- Kaiser told DMHC they had increased % of payment when in reality had changed the payment metric from billed charges to allowables which caused a 50% decrease in payments. Kaiser skirted this in discussion with DMHC.
- ° Go Forward: DMHC to recontact Kaiser



### IEPC Member Perspective

# "Have you been cheated?"

Napa Valley Emergency Medical Group Take on Anthem

Written by Andrew Fenton, MD, FACEP Napa Valley Emergency Medical Group

It was the height of the Covid-19 Delta surge when we first received a letter from the Anthem **Blue Cross Special Investigations** Unit (SIU). In the letter, Anthem wrote, "In the spirit of education and collaboration..." my Emergency Department (ED) group would be placed into their Pre-payment Review Program (PRP) and most of our Level 5 bills for care already delivered would be denied and not paid. A letter to the Anthem Blue Cross SIU resulted in a patronizing and dismissive response from them and reiterated their policy that they would not pay even one cent for what would be about 80% of our Level 5 charts claiming the Medical Decision Making (MDM) documented did not support the charge.

My group (Napa Valley Emergency Medical Group) is a small (seven partners)

independent democratic group. We have tried to contract with Anthem Blue Cross (ABX) in the past but have never been offered more than the unsustainable offer of 120% of Medicare rates. We knew our percentage of Level 5 charts and our charges were average or slightly below average and it was unclear why we were targeted and placed into their PRP. What was clear was that, because ABX members make up a significant percentage of our patients, our group would take a substantial financial hit from the health insurer's unprecedented action.

Through the Independent Emergency Physicians Consortium (IEPC) we found out we were one of many small, independent groups that were targeted by ABX. We also learned ABX forced both noncontracted and contracted groups into their PRP and refused to pay for the care of thousands of ER visits where their subscribers received care, costing emergency physicians millions of dollars across the state. We learned many groups came to together to rightly bring legal action against ABX and their unlawful behavior.

We reached out to our billing company, Physicians' Choice (PC), who quickly noticed these denials and set up meetings with ABX. In these meetings, ABX PRP coders gave little reason why the MDM and charts did not justify the code other than saying "it just doesn't." We learned ABX PRP letters and staff appeared to be written and signed by people who had no experience in E & M coding and were primarily involved in their fraud division and law enforcement.

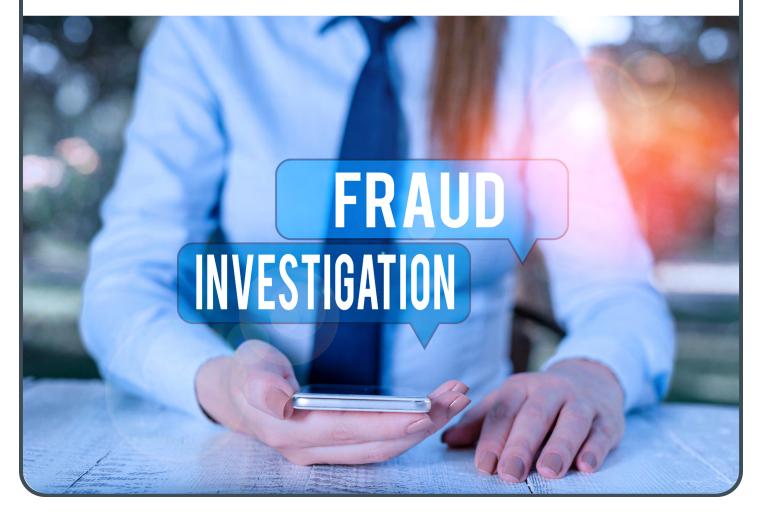
This understanding crystallized even further when we discussed our situation with the California chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (California ACEP). The Chapter had been meeting with legislators and wrote letters to the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), whose purpose is to regulate managed health care plans like Anthem Blue Cross. The Chapter correctly reminded the DMHC that health plans can deny reimbursement for emergency services only when they believe the care was never delivered or when the billing claim is incomplete. ABX was not saying that the services were never performed, nor that the medical chart and billing paperwork submitted wasn't satisfactory, but instead was putting forth the novel theory that these claims were "incomplete" solely because the level of the coding attached to them. ABX even suggested their PRP was designed to eliminate provider "fraud" and upcoding. Apparently convinced or confused, DMHC took no action against ABX.

It was clear the potential impacts of these decisions by ABX, and the indecision by DMHC, could have devastating affects not only on my group, but all of emergency medicine. If the actions of Anthem's PRP were allowed to stand and they could pay nothing, and if this spread to other insurers, and other groups, it could completely unravel the emergency care safety net. One could even imagine this spreading to other medical specialties.

My group concluded we could not afford to join the pending lawsuit against ABX, but we were committed to attack the problem from multiple fronts using all the resources we had at our disposal. First, we wanted to work with our hospital to find out if they were paid for the same emergency visits and at what level of coding. We knew we would need to continue to engage all of organized medicine at every level. We also decided we needed to reach out to our local legislators while working to highlight this injustice in the press.

When we were able to access the hospital data for the same visits where our claims were denied we learned that the hospital was being paid for the emergency services delivered. We also learned that in nearly all these visits, the hospital was being paid at the same level of coding as we were billing. Though the coding for hospitals for ED visits and for ED physician services are not identical they are similar (both coded level 1-5) and it was illogical for ABX to pay the hospital for a level 5 charge while denying the level 5 physician charge claiming it was fraudulent.

Because of the potential scope of the problem, and with this new information, we reached out to the California Medical Association (CMA) who had



previously been working with California ACEP on this issue. We began a dialogue with them so that they could better understand our situation and we signed a Business Services Agreement with the CMA so that we could share information and so they could delve into the specifics of our problem.

We contacted national ACEP and met with national leaders to explain the unique nature of our issue, while showing how it was similar to other payer issues ED groups have faced in other states including groups in Indiana with ABX. Soon after, ACEP produced a letter to the California Congressional delegation and to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), co-signed by California ACEP, explaining the injustice. In the letter, ACEP highlighted how Anthem was attacking smaller, independent groups and that it was paying the hospital for the same visit while denying physicians fair payment.

With the assistance and participation of California ACEP, my partners and I met on multiple occasions with our State Senate and Assembly legislators to educate them about Anthem's actions. We also met with the office of our local Congressman. After he threw out the first pitch at our local minor league baseball game, I caught up personally with my congressman to bend his ear about my group's problem. They were all sympathetic that our small business was being targeted by a company that annually profits billions of dollars.

Collectively, we produced an article with me as author that was published in "MedPage Today" and which garnered significant social media hits and attention: https://www.medpagetoday. com/opinion/secondopinions/100554. With ACEP's coordination, and with others, I completed a video interview highlighting the injustice of the ABX denials on Medscape: https://www.medscape.com/ viewarticle/980278. Additional interviews were undertaken with reporters from with New York Times, California Healthline, and Fierce Healthcare (though never published). The media attention reached the popular Dr. Glaucomflecken, ophthalmologist and comedian, who posted a tweet on Twitter making a parody of the ridiculous ABX denials that received over 6,500 "Likes" and 1500 "Retweets": https:// twitter.com/DGlaucomflecken/ status/1603122806161813504

Meanwhile, ABX continued its PRP and continued to deny payment on most of our 99285 claims. Many claims were over a year old. Our billing company appealed each denial. ABX required materials to be sent in via the US Postal Service so our billing company printed and sent entire charts, sometimes multiple times by certified mail after the charts were "lost" per ABX.

We continued to try to understand why our group was targeted. We confirmed the percentage of Level 5 charts billed by my group and our charges for a 99285 were at or below average. We were able to deduce that almost all denied were patients discharged home. But the methodology ABX was using for coding charts was unknown and it did not seem to match with established coding criteria. We were unclear what we needed to do or what "pass rate" would need to be achieved to be removed from the PRP.

The CMA continued to escalate the issue and wrote a letter to the DMHC Director highlighting the illegality of Anthem's actions. Soon after, a meeting was arranged with the DMHC. We were able to explain to the Department in detail our situation, and how the nonpayment by Anthem was impacting our practices. They seemed genuinely surprised that we had hundreds of charts in limbo and on appeal with no action by ABX. We explained that we had very little understanding why our groups were selected for the PRP, why certain charts were denied and what coding criteria were used, and how we could get out of PRP. We conveyed the impact Anthem's "no pay" scheme was having on our small group and our ability to stay afloat.

We were hopeful DMHC would take an enforcement action against ABX, but they informed CMA and us that no action would be taken. Perhaps with DMHC coaxing, soon after Anthem reached out to us to arrange a meeting. The call was illuminating. ABX was represented by Carl Reinhardt, who oversees their PRP. We learned the Pre-payment Review Program was the idea of Bob Mays, Vice-President at Anthem Blue Cross, and Carl's boss. We were told they review all our 99285 charts and only when their coders believed 80% of our charts were coded correctly would we be removed from PRP (our "pass rate" was 50%). Carl said they look at "fallouts" (patients discharged home) and these are the charts that are scrutinized. He said they use AAPC-certified coders who use AMA and CPT guidelines to review charts to determine the correct code based on MDM, but final diagnosis was an important part of their final decision on the code assigned. Wanting to learn more we set a date for another meeting where we would look at

#### actual charts.

Along with representatives from our billing company, I met with ABX PRP coders and the PRP leadership (Carl Reinhardt, Troy Bird, Richard Mossler). Bird and Mossler (whose names are on all the PRP letters we received) said nothing and kept their cameras off. Our billing company, Physicians Choice (PC), submitted four charts for review that we believed were downcoded, and Anthem submitted charts they said were upcoded.

Reviewing these charts, we learned that ABX was using a Marshfield audit tool to determine the complexity of Medical Decision-Making (MDM) and applying it in a manner like in primary care. As employed this tool gave no credit for workups performed in the ED and only the "workup planned" AFTER discharge, similar to a primary care doctor planning on a workup for a patient's medical complaint. Our PC coders interpreted "workup planned" as the workup in the ED and ABX viewed this as workup recommended after leaving the ED. For example, in a patient with Chest Pain, higher complexity would be assigned by our coders if the patient received a Chest CT or serial EKGs/cardiac enzymes to rule-out life-threatening pulmonary embolism or acute myocardial infarction. Anthem would not give any credit if these tests were performed in the ED, and would only if they were instead recommended in the discharge paperwork (laughable loaic).

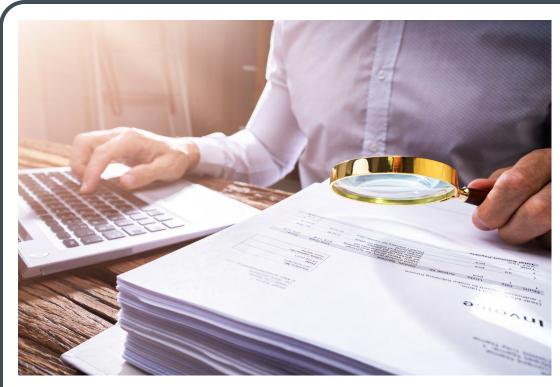
We next learned that there was a significant difference between how our PC coders and the ABX coders determined "Risk" as it applies in the MDM contributing to the final billing code. Our coders viewed "Risk" as the threat to life or bodily function associated with the Chief Complaint and Anthem viewed "Risk" as the threat to the patient AFTER the completion of the ED workup. Again, in an ED patient with Chest Pain, this would be considered by our coders as a high-risk complaint because the risk of heart attack (myocardial infarction) or multiple other dangerous etiologies. ABX stated because those high diagnoses were ruled out by testing in the ER and the patient is discharged, they are automatically at low (or moderate) risk. This reliance on Final Diagnosis is not new for payers underpaying physicians, but the logic Anthem applied as it relates to how charts are coded seemed to be a new wrinkle and clearly conflicted with CPT and CMS determinations.

One of the charts we submitted for review that was initially denied involved a patient with dysrhythmia treated and sent home (denied March 2022 and paid on appeal on May 2023, 14 months later). We were aware that part of Anthem's PRP was the denial of EKG interpretations and that ABX was bundling this within the overall E&M code (though this was not supported by CMS and CPT that state that contemporaneous EKG interpretation is a separate billable service). In a detailed review of Anthem coders' scoring of the chart we learned that they were also not giving credit for EKG interpretation in the MDM. It seemed their PRP team was ordered to not pay for EKG reads and this spread to how they coded each chart. Further discussion made it clear their coders were not giving credit for any ordering and interpreting of any cardiac electrophysiological tests (EKGs, rhythm strips, cardiac monitoring/telemetry) into the MDM. They were doing the

same with bedside ultrasounds. Carl Reinhardt admitted this was a mistake and that ABX cannot deny payment for EKG interpretation and also entirely discount the EKG interpretation in the MDM.

The meeting ended with a promise of another meeting to discuss the impact of this revelation and other matters including the delays in the PRP appeals process, and how ABX is handling the new CPT guidelines for FD F & M codes. It was clear ABX had no defensible position for how they were coding charts and they admitted by mishandling EKG interpretations they wrongly downcoded most of the charts we reviewed. It was clear this had a significant impact on the final assigned CPT codes and this error would impact the codes assigned to charts by ABX as far back as 2021 when we were first placed into the PRP. We expressed to ABX that the admission by the PRP coders that the methodology they use in reviewing MDM is flawed would mandate that all denied 99285 claims that included an EKG or telemetry interpretation, or a bedside ultrasound, be re-reviewed by the PPR appeals team and be assigned a new updated code.

At the beginning of our third meeting with Anthem, Mr. Reinhardt informed us that my group would be removed from the Pre-payment Review Program. He again acknowledged that ABX and PRP coders have not been considering cardiac interpretations in MDM coding decisions. Rather than go back and investing resources recoding those charts it made business sense for ABX to just pay them and all the charts on appeal as coded by our billing company. Mr. Reinhardt also said he was aware that these errors in ABX coding have affected multiple



groups in PRP and ABX will have to decide if they will go through each group's denials and recode them.

We are now working with ABX to make certain that the backlog of unpaid charts gets paid. CMA continues to assist us in this regard and has had a number of meetings with the DMHC to review Anthem's PRP program and its negative impacts. Part of this conversation is if DMHC will force ABX to pay the 15% interest owed on these unlawfully denied claims.

Meanwhile, I was recently contacted by an emergency medicine colleague in Kentucky whose small independent group was contacted by Anthem Blue Cross and informed they were being placed into Pre-payment Review. Like a weed, if these payer cheating tactics are allowed to exist, they grow and spread. Only when regulators, or the legal system, severely punishes them financially will they be less likely to hatch these schemes. revelations of their flawed coding methodology, Anthem Blue Cross will roll back its Pre-payment Review Program entirely. In the meantime, I encourage any group in the PRP to contact the CMA, and California ACEP, and we have the contact information for Mr. Reinhardt who has offered to meet individually with each affected group. Reportedly, ABX is releasing an updated reimbursement policy for emergency medicine physicians that will take effect January, 2024. Meanwhile, the changes to CPT Documentation Guidelines for ED E/M Codes 99281-99285 are in force. These also include significant clarifications and the new guidelines state, "The final diagnosis for a condition does not in itself determine the complexity or risk as extensive evaluation may be required to reach the conclusion that the signs or symptoms do not represent a highly morbid condition." The new guidelines will make it difficult for payers, like Anthem Blue Cross, to continue their practice of

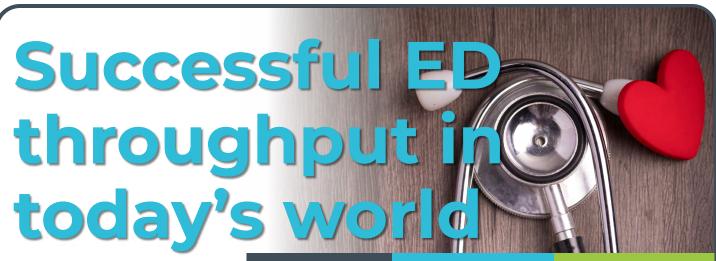
#### downcoding.

Running a small, independent ED group has many rewards, but also offers many challenges. One of the greatest is standing up to multibillion dollar insurance companies to be fairly reimbursed for the lifesaving care we deliver. To assist with this, it is vitally important we all work with one another as a team. This is one of the most important lessons I learned from this experience. By being involved with IEPC, California ACEP, and the CMA I

have developed friendships and contacts that were invaluable when we came under attack. It also reinforced that our best friend was our billing company, Physicians' Choice, who fought alongside us all the way. I also learned, that when threatened, though we are small group we can fight like a badger and must do everything possible to stay alive. We reached out to every ally we could think of, utilized the media and press, and looked for relief from the legal system, regulators, and politicians. Not only did I interrupt my congressman trying to enjoy a beer and hot dog at a baseball game, I submitted several cases to Judge Judy answering, "Have you been cheated?" In the end, it was all worth it.

Thanks go out to so many people who assisted us in our fight, but extra "Thank you" to Elena Lopez-Gusman from California ACEP, Steven Arnoff from ACEP, and especially Jodi Black from CMA.

I am hopeful that with the new





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In most hospitals, more than half of all patients on the inpatient units come via the Emergency Department. If the front door of the hospital doesn't facilitate great care and a great patient experience (for those discharged as well as admitted), it can be very difficult for the hospital to recover. Unfortunately, stories about struggling EDs have become the rule rather than the exception across the United States. Additionally, these struggles are only exacerbated by the increased volume finding its way to the ED after COVID. Throughput (length of stay),

door-to-provider times, patient and staff engagement, left without being seen (LWBSs), elopements, inpatient holds, and diversion hours frustrate clinical staff and administration alike. While there are numerous methodologies that can be used to address these issues (Lean, Six Sigma, etc.), it is important to recognize that regardless of the way in which the problems are addressed there are only a handful of habits that are required for an ED to be successful.

Bringing these habits to life requires changing old habits– both organizationally and in the ED. There are two essential aspects of change that must be adhered to if an ED is able to successfully acquire these habits–engaging front-line caregivers in the design and considering the ED as a system, not a series of discreet steps.

Working with facilities large and small (currently more than 5 million patients are experiencing care each year in facilities whose process redesigns I've facilitated) I've seen what works. Not a specific process (there are differences site to site depending on a number of variables) but a set of habits that successful EDs take advantage of. Each of these habits is connected and reinforces the others. They sound simple. But don't be deceived. They aren't necessarily easily acquired or executed. Here are a few words on each:

# Be truly patient focused

Patients come to ED for only one reason-to see a provider. We may know this intellectually, yet we put up roadblocks between the door and the provider. These roadblocks are well intended and make sense when we establish them, but we don't fully comprehend their unintended consequences (for example, in most EDs, the first person the patient walking in sees isn't a clinician-it's a registrar or a security officer). Before you can be truly patient focused, you have to know what patient focused really looks like. That doesn't mean which questions are identified as most important on the patient sat survey. It's really knowing and understanding what the patient requires-what they want, need and expect-of the service you're providing.

It is vital that you engage frontline staff in clearly articulating the ideal patient experience and use that as a filter for the process you employ to take care of your



patients. Everyone must know what is expected of them and what they're collectively shooting for.

Creating patient-focused processes isn't always easy. Clinicians are smart. They're able to rationalize why what's best for them is, in fact, what's best for the patient. That's why most of the processes you find in health care are built around the staff, not the patient.

### Have a source of truth regarding the process

Reducing variation is key to high-quality care and consistent, efficient and effective throughput. There needs to be a source of truth regarding how things are done, including expectations for performance. That means the care process should be documented to the task level because this will drive:

- Consistency in performance
- Consistency in training
- Reduction in variation

This is about more than policies and it's more than an oral history. If everyone is going to row in the same direction, they need to know specifically what the process is. Too often, the process that the new staff is oriented to is based on how the preceptor does it. If there are more than one preceptors, there will be variation baked into the training. "This is how I do it," shouldn't be the standard operating procedure. How it's done should be in writing.

View the ED as a system, not a

series of discreet events Everything that happens in an ED (or in any system) affects other aspects of the system down stream. You have to address the entire system. In this case, it's the ED process from arrival to discharge/admit (i.e., you can't fix triage in isolation). Therefore, if you want to improve the system you need to do three things:

- I. Get the system in the room
- II. Give the participants a chance to see reality through each others' eyes. This provides the participants an opportunity to suspend the assumptions they have about the other functions in the system (i.e., the ED RNs understand why the floor RNs might not want to or be able to take admitted patients as quickly as the ED RNs might expect).
- III. Allow the functions to put their different purposes together

#### and to commit to them

Remember, it's about improving the quality of thinking and interactions between the different parts of the system, not optimizing any single aspect of the system.

### Ensure the patient is always where the patient belongs clinically

Unfortunately the processes that are in place are often based on incorrect assumptions. For example, our overarching mental models tell us that ED patients need to be in a bed to be treated. That's why in most EDs patients have to end up in a bed before they see a provider or RN even if they don't need to be horizontal for their care. The fact is, not every ED patient needs a bed to be treated and not every ED patient needs to own that bed throughout their stay if they should happen to get one at some point in the process. ED patients may physically move through their treatment experience. This concept leads to the consideration that the physical plant can be used more efficiently with the creation of results waiting or other "vertical" space for the patients, such as treatment in progress. However, in order for this to happen, understanding the acuity of patients and where they are in their treatment process is required, otherwise patients will get "lost" in the system.

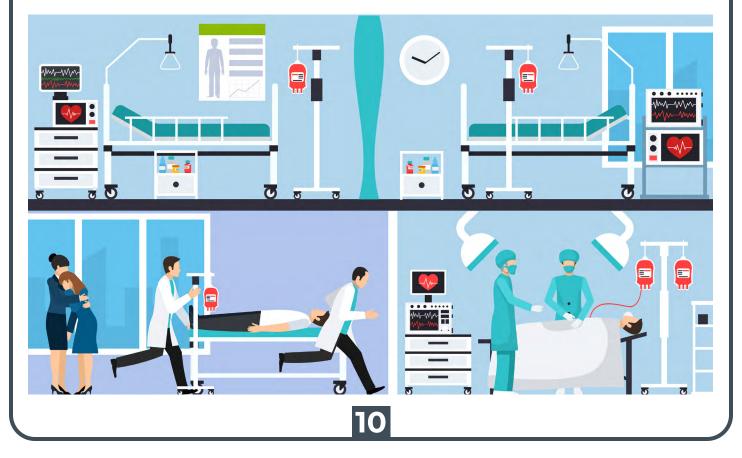
# Treat the sickest patients and manage the rest continuously through to disposition

The traditional process used by the overwhelming percentage of EDs forces clinicians to choose between patients based on acuity. If patients are segregated

by acuity based on clinical criteria (not solely ESI designation) the staff can care for patients on the patient's time, not on the staff's time. This is different than a fast track, which is typically based on ESI 4 and 5 patients and struggles to be sustained due to the subjective nature of the initial triage. It is more effective to utilize limited clinical exclusion criteria as well as ESI. This segregation of patients should not be time-based (i.e., all patients can get through in 90 minutes).

Full initial triage with an ESI sort will inevitably lead to the idea that "this patient can wait." This assumes that the system requires patients to wait for care and with this mindset, they inevitably will.

Another trick EDs use is putting a provider in triage, which typically leads to redundancy in the process (if the patient can't be discharged from triage, the patient often goes through another assessment by the



physician in the ED to complete treatment and order additional tests) or a "drive by" interaction between provider and patient that doesn't fully initiate the treatment process.

# Robust air traffic control (facilitating proactivity)

If patients move during the course of their treatment, you have to know where they are physically as well as where they are in their treatment plan. This means someone must oversee the overall flow of patients. The charge RN should be this air traffic controller. Keep in mind that the charge role is a real function not simply a designation. He or she is not the department's gopher-physically pushing patients upstairs or handling hard sticks. They must do what they are uniquely gualified to do and their duties must be specifically defined (standardized). They need to be able to look ahead and project ED bed/space needs hours in advance to avoid the last minute scramble whenever possible. Understanding the volume and the distribution of that volume over the entire day is a must and they need the tools to manage current volume and anticipate future volume.

# A sustained sense of urgency

Every patient deserves a focused, quick (but not too quick) throughput experience. All too often, there isn't a real sense of urgency throughout the day in Emergency Departments. Usually it takes an emergent patient (a trauma or highly acute patient) or when the ED is slammed before there is a real sense of urgency. It is absolutely essential to maintain that sense of urgency when the department is full or if it's virtually empty. The struggle is to pick up the pace when needed, if things have been slow. A coach once said to me, "How you practice is how you play." The same idea applies here. A consistent sense of urgency leads to better quality care and improved patient experience throughout the day, not only when volume goes through the roof.

# Continuous communication with the patient and family

The patient and family (or care support system) must be kept in the loop as the care process unfolds. That means that they should be updated every 15 minutes or less, even if you can't add anything new to what's happening. Scripting is essential to support the staff in this communication. Too many times I've seen ED staff actually avoid talking to patients because they don't know what to say as to why the process is taking so long. And when they do talk to the patient, it's very tempting to blame other parts of the system ("Radiology takes so long" or "I'm waiting to get a hold of the floor nurse to give report").

# **Closing thoughts**

ED throughput struggles are real. Most of my clients tell me the problems they have in the ED are driven by the inpatient units not taking patients quickly enough, the ancillaries are too slow, or the behavioral patients are camped out there for too long. When I hear this, I remind them that typically 4 out of 5 ED patients go home. If you can address the 80% successfully, the other issues are inconveniences, not single points When it's all said and done. remember: It's a team sport and there are different motivations for different team functions. RNs in EDs today, generally, are less experienced than they were 5 or 10 years ago, which puts pressure on the more experienced RNs as well as the providers. (Adding to the struggles, these new RNs are turning over at an accelerated rate.) The sense of burnout is real and connecting all caregivers to their "why" is essential. The caregiving team must be owners of the process, not renters. Articulating an intentional culture and then operationalizing that culture in the process is key.

Some of this might seem obvious. Some runs counter to conventional wisdom related to the way in which EDs approach their care process. Remember, the way in which we think about our work drives how we do our work. How we think about care in our EDs drives whether or not these habits go from ideas we understand intellectually to ways in which we consistently care for our patients. Challenging the conventional wisdom can be tough.

Please give me a call if you'd like to talk this through or if you have any questions.

#### To view the archive of Scott's IEPC Speaker Series

session where he covers these points please view the following page.



# **2023 IEPC SPEAKER SERIES** FREE TO ALL FRIENDS OF IEPC!

#### Presented by the Independent Emergency Physicians Consortium Time & Date: 9:00AM - 9:30AM Pacific on the fourth Monday of the month.

Membership in IEPC is not required to attend. Advance registration for the meeting is required. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information on how to join the call.

