**ACEP Telehealth Section, Scientific Assembly Meeting Minutes**

**10/11/2023**

* Overview of past year
  + Speaker series
    - ED-on-demand, Northwell (Berkowitz)
    - Acute Care in the Home Panel (Khakhkhar [moderator], Hayden, Sossong, Blutinger)
    - How Telemedicine is going to change your practice (Hollander)
    - Towards Equity in Telehealth (Salhi)
    - mHealth in EM (Burner)
    - Facilities Fees: Past and Present (Booker)
    - Asynchronous Telehealth in Disasters (Lee)
    - ET3 in EM (Gamber)
    - Hospital at Home (Khakhkhar [moderator], Nottidge, Conley, Chang)
    - Observation Telehealth (Ross)
  + Advocacy
    - Eval and management codes (obs)
    - Engagement w/ other sections and committees
    - Engagement w/ AMA
  + Dissemination of Information
    - Quarterly Section Newsletter: Find on website, EngagED!
      * Reg update
      * Voices from the field
      * Five awesome abstracts
  + Connecting
    - Sharing meetings, open mic
* Dr. Haddock comments (given by Dr. Baker)
  + Big new role as president of ACEP!
  + ACEP Telehealth Taskforce to be released
  + Impressed about debate on council floor about utility of telehealth for rural settings and beyond
* Dr. Joshi Council Update
  + Telemedicine consults for on-site non-emergency physicians in emergency departments – resolution did not pass
    - Some tension between ACEP desired gold standard of “board-certified emergency physician at every site” and allowing for telemedicine consults to fill the gap where this does not exist
  + Dr. Joshi willing to work with anyone who wants to write a resolution
  + Dr. Joshi also part of the Digital Medicine group within AMA that looks at telemedicine, RPM codes etc
* Ryan McBride regulatory update
  + Since our last meeting…
    - Many covid telehealth flexibilities tied to the end of the PHE
    - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (March 2023) extended most flexibilities to 151 days after PHE
    - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (December 2023) extended many flexibilities to 12/2024
    - Extension of Safe Harbor for Absence of Deductible for Telehealth
    - Not addressed in CAA 2023
      * Licensure waivers
      * F2F evaluation req prior to home dialysis
      * Hospitals without walls initiative
      * Enforcement discretion re: Skype, Facetime etc
      * Controlled substances telehealth prescribing
        + DEA issued regs more restrictive than PHE flexibilities
      * Reimbursement of Medicare telehealth services
      * Direct supervision (virtual presence)
      * Telehealth as excepted benefit under ERISA
    - Medicare enrollment and billing – ACEP is pushing back against collection and publishing of docs’ residences
    - Dr. Hollander makes a comment that perhaps medical specialties (along with social work and other allied health specialties), urban/rural areas, etc can focus regulatory efforts together rather than separately
    - How can section members stay abreast of regulatory changes?
      * Newsletter: 911 Network Newsletter
* 1-minute introductions of everyone at meeting
* Open networking
  + More regulatory learning! Different environments for everyone makes things difficult
  + Using telehealth and technology to extend the capability of non-physician providers (triage, etc)
  + Reimbursement around prehospital care
    - Difficult payer mix
  + ACEP/Payer relationship? ACEP does work with payers in targeted areas including telehealth, though payers look at guidance from feds
  + Dr. Hollander: every program needs to show hard ROI. In a year, let’s present our finances for self-sustaining programs (not pilots)
  + Incentives are backwards: tele-EMS decreases revenue for health systems
  + Looking ahead
    - Speaker series: Dr. Kelly Rhone (CMO Avel eCare 11/14 2p ET)
    - Other topics
      * Tele-nursing
      * Healthcare at home
      * Tele-sitters
      * Tele-triage/PIT
      * Tele-SNF
      * AI in telehealth