**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