

EDPMA Statement: The Impact of The Healthcare Landscape on Emergency Medicine Physician Practices

May 17, 2023, McLean, VA – The Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA) is the trade association for the emergency medicine specialty representing physician groups of all sizes who staff emergency departments, provide revenue cycle management services and supporting organizations.

Multiple factors are creating a perfect storm for the EMTALA health care providers, risking timely access to emergency care. These include the chronic underfunding of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, workforce shortages, wage inflation, boarding in the emergency department, and the stressed hospital environment in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, the extremely flawed implementation of the fair and balanced *No Surprises Act* (NSA) has significantly challenged the financial stability of physician practices. The NSA Further, EDPMA data found that health plans have very frequently not paid clinicians once an IDR entity decision is made in favor of the physician group. This keeps significant reimbursement for already-delivered emergency services in the pockets of insurers.²

“We are aware of physician groups, billing companies, and others in the healthcare industry facing financial challenges,” says Andrea Brault, MD, FACEP, EDPMA Chair of the Board. “EDPMA will continue to advocate for drastically needed changes to state and federal policies in order to protect patient access to critical emergency care. Fortunately, Envision Healthcare was able to take steps to ensure their clinicians and the patients they care for will not be impacted by the company’s restructuring. However, this situation is a foreshadowing to other physician groups who may face even more challenging financial prospects as a result of poor implementation of the *No Surprises Act* and unchecked payer practices. The continued failure to hold insurance companies accountable is harming our healthcare system, threatening the Emergency Department safety net and our most vulnerable patients’ access to care.”

More information regarding Envision Healthcare’s restructuring process and what it means for patients and clinicians can be found at www.envisionhealthfuture.com.