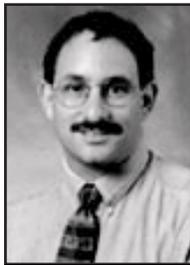




FAAEM
always means
board certified

SENSE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Board of Directors Develops New Vision Statement

Howard Blumstein, MD FAAEM

Vision is a long-term view, sometimes describing how the organization would like the world in which it operates to be. At least, that is what Wikipedia says. For the Academy, the Vision Statement is an important document describing the ideal practice environment for emergency medicine. The statement describes a setting in which patients benefit from access to properly board certified emergency physicians. It envisions a future in which those doctors are free to make decisions based solely on the patient's medical needs and in which those doctors control their own practices.

Is this idealistic? Sure. But a vision statement is supposed to be idealistic. It is supposed to define the perfect future

for our specialty. It is not the roadmap to our goal; it is the goal.

At its most recent meeting, the board of directors reviewed the AAEM Vision Statement. It was tightened up and revised in order to put more focus on our core issues. It is now cleaner and easier to read. Personally, I have trouble imagining an emergency doctor reading this document and taking issue with any of its tenets.

I encourage all members to review the Vision Statement. Share it with colleagues. Use it to help them learn what the Academy is about. The statement can be a starting point of a discussion of why AAEM's core issues should be important to all emergency doctors.

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Vision Statement of AAEM

A physician's primary duty is to the patient. The integrity of this doctor-patient relationship requires that emergency physicians control their own practices free of outside interference.

We aspire to a future in which all patients have access to board certified emergency physicians.

THE PRINCIPLES

1. The ideal practice situation in emergency medicine affords each physician an equitable ownership stake in the practice. Such ownership entails responsibility to the practice beyond clinical services.
2. Emergency physicians should have control over their professional fees and should not engage in fee-splitting.
3. The role of emergency medicine management companies should be to help physicians manage their practice. The practice should be owned by and controlled by its physicians and not by a management company.
4. Medical societies should actively encourage the creation and enforcement of statutes prohibiting the corporate practice of medicine.
5. Medical societies should not accept financial support from entities that do not adhere to the above principles.
6. Emergency medicine specialty societies should work towards the goal of establishing a workforce sufficient to ensure that all emergency departments in the United States and its territories are staffed by emergency physicians certified by either the American Board of Emergency Medicine or the American Board of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine.

7/12/10