



#### OFFICERS

ROBERT FROLICHSTEIN, MD FAAEM  
President  
San Antonio, TX

VICKI NORTON, MD FAAEM  
President-Elect  
Boca Raton, FL

PHILLIP A. DIXON, MD MBA MPH FAAEM  
CHCQM-PHYADV  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Delaware, OH

JONATHAN S. JONES, MD FAAEM  
Immediate Past President  
Jackson, MS

JOSEPH P. WOOD, MD JD MAAEM FAAEM  
Past Presidents Council Representative  
Carefree, AZ

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HEIDI BEST, MD FAAEM  
Virginia Beach, VA

LAURA J. BONTEMPO, MD Med FAAEM  
Baltimore, MD

ERIC BRADER, MD FAAEM  
Seawickley, PA

KIMBERLY M. BROWN, MD MPH FAAEM  
Memphis, TN

FRANK L. CHRISTOPHER, MD FAAEM  
Carthage, NC

FRED E. KENCY, JR., MD FAAEM FACEP  
Madison, MS

ROBERT P. LAM, MD FAAEM  
Colorado Springs, CO

KEVIN C. REED, MD FAAEM  
Kensington, MD

ROBERT E. SUTER, DO MHA FAAEM  
Dallas, TX

#### YPS DIRECTOR

HAIQ AINTABIAN, MD FAAEM  
Glendale, CA

#### AAEM/RSA PRESIDENT

KATY WYSZYNSKI, DO  
Grand Prairie, TX

#### CEO, AAEM PHYSICIAN GROUP

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER  
MARK REITER, MD MBA MAAEM FAAEM  
Brentwood, TN

#### EDITOR, JEM

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER  
STEPHEN R. HAYDEN, MD FAAEM  
San Diego, CA

#### EDITOR, COMMON SENSE

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER  
EDWIN LEAP II, MD  
Tamassee, SC

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MISSY ZAGROBA, CAE

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS

KAY WHALEN, MBA CAE

## Corporate Practice of Medicine

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) is the specialty society for board-certified emergency physicians, representing approximately 8,000 members across the nation. AAEM has been a leader in advancing the value of board certification in emergency medicine and confronting the harmful influence of the corporate practice of medicine.

Emergency medicine (EM) is one of the most important aspects of the American health care system. However, the corporate practice of medicine threatens the integrity of the specialty, the career satisfaction and longevity of its practitioners, and ultimately the quality of care delivered to emergency patients. Despite some prohibitions in the states, private equity firms and hedge funds continue to buy hospitals and practices, exacerbating the problem.

The prohibition on the corporate practice of medicine is intended to prevent non-physicians from interfering with or influencing the physician's professional judgment. The intent is to keep the business interest out of the patient-physician relationship. In Emergency Medicine (EM) the need for these controls is heightened as we encounter vulnerable patients who may not have adequate health care coverage. The following health care decisions should be made by a physician and would constitute the unlicensed practice of medicine if performed by a non-physician:

- Determining how many patients a physician must see in a given period of time or how many hours a physician must work.
- Determining what diagnostic tests or treatments are appropriate for a particular condition.
- Determining the need for discharge, admission or transfer of a patient.
- Determining which patients will be seen by a physician or a non-physician practitioner.
- Determining how a physician will interface with a non-physician practitioner.

In addition, the following "business" or "management" decisions and activities, resulting in control over the physician's practice of medicine, should be made by a licensed physician(s) and not by an unlicensed person or entity:

- Selection and the hiring/firing of physicians.
- Setting the parameters under which the physician will enter into contractual relationships with third-party payers.
- Decisions regarding coding and billing procedures for patient care services.

**We urge Congress to support legislation and policies that would prohibit non-physicians, especially private equity and hedge funds from practicing medicine. For more information, please contact the AAEM at [info@aaem.org](mailto:info@aaem.org).**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE  
555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823  
(800) 884-2236 | [info@aaem.org](mailto:info@aaem.org) | [www.aaem.org](http://www.aaem.org)