



The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) promotes the highest quality of emergency care and with 38,000 members, is the leading advocate for emergency physicians, their patients, and the public. Emergency physicians are on the front lines of the nation's opioid epidemic, and every day, they see first-hand the toll this public health crisis has taken on individuals and their families, as well as the devastating impacts that have been felt in our communities.

ACEP has been educating its members and emergency care providers across the United States on safe prescribing guidelines for years and these efforts have shown great success. According to a 2015 American Journal of Preventive Medicine (AJPM) study, the largest percentage drop in opioid-prescribing rates between 2007-2012 occurred in emergency medicine (-8.9 percent).

To help solve the problem of opioid misuse and substance use disorders, emergency physicians rarely prescribe extended release opioids or prescriptions for more than several days. ACEP is also actively engaged in efforts to address the opioid epidemic both in terms of prevention and treatment from the emergency department. This includes the promotion and expansion of several key initiatives such as acute pain management programs that utilize a multi-modality approach to help treat painful conditions and presentations in the emergency department, and Emergency Department (ED)-initiated Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) programs that initiate treatment in the ED and help connect patients with appropriate community resources to encourage successful longer-term treatment for substance use disorders.

As such, ACEP is committed to working with the National Academy of Medicine and other partners in this collaborative effort to share knowledge, develop evidence-based strategies, and promote effective cross-sector solutions that will help reverse the national trends of opioid misuse and overdose.

Emergency physicians are eager to continue building on these important efforts to develop patient-centered solutions by working together to share resources across organizations and throughout communities. Addressing the opioid epidemic remains a critical priority for ACEP and its members, and we look forward to working with the Action Collaborative to strengthen both our collective and individual efforts to improve patient care and better the lives of our patients and their families.