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January 29, 2019

Vidor Friedman, MD, FACEP
President
American College of Emergency Physicians
4950 W. Royal Lane
Irving, TX 75063

Dear Dr. Friedman:

The Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians (PACEP) recently became aware of a program by TeamHealth to offer a one-year fellowship in emergency medicine to physicians in primary care specialties, such as family medicine or internal medicine. The stated goal of this program is to allow these individuals to pursue a career in emergency medicine with further statements that individuals who have completed this training are able to practice in emergency departments without difficulty and that the program is expanding (References below).

As a state chapter of ACEP with a large number of emergency medicine residency programs whose graduates are eligible for certification by ABEM and AOBEM and members who are educators and trainees in these programs, PACEP believes that the TeamHealth program falsely equates shortened, non-credentialed training with the rigor of residency programs in emergency medicine leading to Board Eligibility and Certification. This stands in direct contradiction to the ACEP definition of an emergency physician and de-values our training, our members, and the quality of care true emergency physicians provide to patients.

PACEP requests that ACEP publicly advocate that TeamHealth end this program and ask TeamHealth to re-affirm its long-standing commitment to emergency medicine residency training and Board Certification medicine as the only standard for practice of emergency medicine. In addition, we believe that ACEP should evaluate whether other such programs exist and how ACEP can partner with other organizations in emergency medicine to ensure that these shortened programs are ended. Finally, we believe that ACEP should advocate for expanding resources for residency training in emergency medicine to meet the shortage of emergency physicians in an appropriate manner.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to let PACEP know how we can work with ACEP on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AD11'.

Ankur A. Doshi MD, FACEP
President – Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians

cc: Harry Monroe
Sandy Schneider

References:

<https://nf.aafp.org/Directories/Fellowship/Detail/30cda6df-b225-451b-80dd-3e353570f407>

<https://nf.aafp.org/Directories/Fellowship/Detail/b816a4d1-53e2-43a8-a90a-ec3db510dc45>

<https://www.acep.org/patient-care/policy-statements/definition-of-an-emergency-physician/#sm.0001g4wk1j163ek5rj017mecvyra1>