



## **13 - Emergency Physicians Writing** **Admitting Orders**

(Adopted 10/11)

The American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP) supports the goal of quality patient care at all levels. This goal is fostered by the clear identification of patient care responsibility by a primary physician coordinating the treatment plan. Since, Emergency Physicians typically do not provide such care on an inpatient basis they should not be required to prescribe orders that provides, or appears to provide, continued responsibility for a patient beyond emergency department treatment to an inpatient setting. Further, hospitals and emergency departments should jointly develop written policies to delineate responsibility for writing admission orders.

Likewise, since there is often a time interval between admission and the admitting physician writing or relaying hospital inpatient admission orders policies should also be developed to guarantee that the patient be seen in a timely manner by the physician who is assuming continued care.

In such cases where quality patient care is best served, the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians believes that it is acceptable for emergency physicians to write Holding Orders, which define any necessary treatment and assessment parameters required in the interval until completion of admission orders. However, in such cases orders should be restricted to: **Type of Admit** (unit/ward, status-observation vs. full, diagnoses, necessary isolation precautions), **Parties responsible for patient care** (attending/resident service/consultants), **certain care parameters** (Activity, diet, ventilator settings/supplemental O<sub>2</sub> (if necessary), intravenous fluids (type/rate), continuation of emergency medications as mass care, and vitals per unit routine), **Notification directives** (Notify resident service/admitting attending upon arrival to floor, of any abnormal vital sign/other condition change, Call hospital medical director if full admission orders not written with 4 hours. Further such orders should be carried out within a reasonable time frame as described by the institutional bylaws.