



## **2 - The Role of Emergency Physicians** **in Preventive Medicine**

(Adopted 10/98, Reaffirmed 10/11)

The American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP) recognizes the extreme importance of the role that the emergency physician plays in the treatment of disease and injury that is the direct result of maladaptive lifestyles and behaviors. The ACOEP also recognized the critical role the emergency physician can play in the prevention of disease and violence.

The ACOEP has developed the following suggestions to assist the practicing emergency medicine physician in their practice and research of preventive emergency medicine.

- A. The emergency medicine physician (EMP) should be actively involved in activities and educational programs that detail the inherent risk in alcohol consumption and vehicle driving.
- B. The EMP should be actively involved in activities and educational programs that heighten the public's awareness of the physical effects of alcohol and other abused drugs.
- C. The EMP should be actively involved in local educational programs that educate children and adolescents on the inherent dangers of alcohol and abused drugs.
- D. The EMP should be involved in the education of senior citizens in regard to the interactions of alcohol and their medications.
- E. The EMP should be actively involved in educational programs and activities that deal with issues of family violence.
- F. The EMP should be actively involved in educational programs and activities that address local youth and gang violence.
- G. The EMP must report suspected occurrences of child, spousal, or elder abuse to the appropriate authorities within the State statutes in which the EMP practices.
- H. The EMP should be involved with programs that educate the public in regards to behavioral patterns that can result in the prevention of traumatic injury, such as seat-belts, motorcycle and bicycle helmets, and child car seats.

- I. The EMP should be involved in programs that ensure the adequate and complete immunization of all children.
- J. The EMP should be actively involved in educational programs that heighten the public's awareness to the long-term physical effects of tobacco abuse.
- K. The EMP should be involved in the local and national legislative movements that protect a patient from the undue effects of societal violence, alcohol and drug abuse and recreational injuries.
- L. The EMP should be actively involved in promoting wellness by choice behavior.