American Board of Emergency Medicine

Results of the 2013 LSEP
EM Physicians Survey

In 2013, ABEM continued the practice of creating three distinct versions of the LSEP interim survey. The EM physician survey was sent to 1,113 LSEP participant physicians believed to be currently practicing EM or an EM subspecialty. A second survey was mailed to 130 retired LSEP participants, and a third survey was mailed to 105 participants working in alternate occupations. This report presents final results from the EM physician survey.

Frequency distributions for all but the open-ended questions are presented in the annotated survey. The N’s reflect the number of people responding to each question. The first two questions were used to determine whether each person received the correct survey. Apparent inconsistencies may occur when respondents answer questions they are instructed to skip or skip questions they should answer. Percentages may not always sum to exactly 100% due to rounding. The sum of percentages may exceed 100% when participants are asked to “circle all that apply.”

Table 1. Number Participating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of EM Physician Surveys Sent</th>
<th>1,113</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Surveys Returned Unanswered (Wrong address, death, etc.)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Surveys Not Returned</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Surveys Returned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (Percent of Number of Surveys Sent)</td>
<td>919 (83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Participants Who are No Longer EM Physicians</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Participants from the Retired and Alternate Occupation Surveys Who are Now EM Physicians</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Surveys Returned Without Data</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total EM Surveys for Analysis</td>
<td>833</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individuals may change their survey status depending on how they answered the first two questions. Twenty-one paper surveys were filled out incorrectly and were removed from the analysis. Some examples were surveys that did not have any work area selected for Question 2, or the rest of the survey was empty. The remaining 833 surveys were used in the final analysis.

Results of the EM Physician Survey

Ninety-four percent of participants responded that they do not practice as a locum tenens physician. These 46 physicians were directed to answer the next question regarding their participation as locum tenens physicians in Emergency Medicine. Ninety-six percent (96%) answered “Yes” to this question.

Participants were also asked whether they or their department participate in selected safety activities (it was possible for a participant to circle more than one activity). Medication
reconciliation was selected the most at 72%. Taking a time out was next, at 67%. The next two were still both selected more than 50% of the time. These were performing a root cause analysis (55%) and training/workshops on patient safety issues (52%). Departmental patient safety audits were not far behind, being selected 49% of the time. “Investigate all close calls” was chosen 44% of the time.

Ninety-five percent (95%) of those who responded to the survey indicated that their department and/or hospital use some form of patient satisfaction survey. When asked which one they use, 59% selected Press Ganey. Participants who were unsure of the name of the instrument made up the next largest group at 25%, followed by CAHPS at 17%. Some of the systems mentioned by those who chose ‘Other’ were: NCR Picker, Avatar, and specialized systems for their particular needs.

Also, 61% of physicians mentioned that some form of a peer-peer survey or activity to assess their care performance was used. The most common type of survey listed was the chart/case review followed by the peer/committee review. Several different types of surveys were mentioned.

Currently practicing EM physicians were asked to grade the portion of newly graduated EM physicians that are qualified for the current practice of Emergency Medicine. Eighty-eight percent responded with ‘Most’ or ‘All’. Roughly 12% responded ‘Some’ or fewer.

Several areas of focus were listed for participants to select from when asked “What areas do you recommend that future graduates be better prepared”. Interpersonal communication was chosen the most at 47%. Physicians also selected resource utilization 43% of the time. Patient management came in third with 34%. Professionalism was also a popular choice with 29%. When ‘Other’ was selected, common answers were that graduates understand billing and coding, business and organizational structures in general, and management.

When the individuals were asked if they felt that electronic medical records improve patient care, 59% said ‘Yes’.
1. Do you consider yourself fully retired—that is, no longer regularly working for pay, either part-time or full-time, in any medical or non-medical occupation? N=833

   Yes ............................................................... 1  Go to Question 12 N=0
   No, I still work for pay .............................................. 5  Go to Question 2 N=810 (97%)

2. In what area(s) do you currently work? N=833

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>(Circle All That Apply)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Emergency Medicine (EM)</td>
<td>1 91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes EM clinical, administrative, academic, &amp; consulting)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. EM subspecialty</td>
<td>1 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes MedTox, PedEM, SportsMed, UHM, &amp; HPM)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Urgent care</td>
<td>1 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Critical care EM</td>
<td>1 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Internal medicine</td>
<td>1 &lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Occupational medicine</td>
<td>1 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Physical &amp; rehabilitative medicine</td>
<td>1 &lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Other medical (non-EM)</td>
<td>1 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Please specify)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Other (non-medical)</td>
<td>1 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Please specify)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Options a-d above are defined as EM work for the purposes of this survey. If you circled none of options a-d, please go to Question 12.

3. Do you practice as a locum tenens physician? (Circle Only One) N=827 (N/A=4, Missing=2)

   Yes ............................................................... 1  Go to Question 4 6%
   No ............................................................... 5  Go to Question 5 94%

4. Do you practice as a locum tenens physician in Emergency Medicine? N=46

   Yes ............................................................... 1 96%
   No ............................................................... 5 4%

   Please specify in what specialty ____________________________________________________________________________
5. In what types of patient safety activities do you or your department participate? *(Circle All That Apply)*

N=833

- a. Root cause analysis ................................................................. 1  55%
- b. Time out .................................................................................. 1  67%
- c. Training/workshops on patient safety issues ......................... 1  52%
- d. Medication reconciliation .......................................................... 1  72%
- e. Departmental patient safety audits ........................................... 1  49%
- f. Investigate all close calls ............................................................ 1  44%
- g. Other .......................................................................................... 1  10%

*Please specify* ________________________________________________

6. Does your department and/or hospital use some form of patient satisfaction survey to assess your care?

N=822 (N/A=7, Missing=4)

- Yes ................................................................. 1  Go to Question 7  95%
- No ................................................................. 5  Go to Question 8  5%

7. What patient satisfaction survey does your department and/or hospital currently use? *(Circle All That Apply)*

N=777

- a. Press Ganey ................................................................. 1  59%
- b. CAHPS/HCAHPS ............................................................... 1  17%
- c. MAPPS (Member Appraisal of Physician/Provider Services) ..... 1  2%
- d. J.D. Powers & Associates .................................................... 1  1%
- e. Unsure/don’t know name ..................................................... 1  25%
- f. Other .................................................................................... 1  13%

*Please specify* ________________________________________________

8. Does your department and/or hospital use some form of peer-peer survey or activity to assess your care?

N=822 (N/A=8, Missing=3)

- Yes ......................................................................................... 1  61%
- No ......................................................................................... 5  39%

*If Yes, please specify* ___________________________________________

9. What portion of newly graduated EM physicians do you feel are qualified for the current practice of Emergency Medicine?

N=815 (N/A=13, Missing=5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>None</th>
<th>Few</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Most</th>
<th>All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. In what areas do you recommend that future graduates be better prepared? (Circle All That Apply)  
N=833  

a. Medical knowledge .............................................................. 1  14%  
b. Procedural skills................................................................. 1  14%  
c. Patient management............................................................ 1  34%  
d. Interpersonal communication............................................. 1  47%  
e. Professionalism ................................................................. 1  29%  
f. Resource utilization ............................................................ 1  43%  
g. None, they are well prepared............................................. 1  14%  
h. Other................................................................................... 1  17%  
Please specify  
____________________________________________________________________

11. Do you feel that electronic medical records improve patient care?  N=823 (N/A=9, Missing=1)  

Yes .......................................................................................... .. 1  59%  
No .............................................................................................. 5  41%  

12. PLEASE MAKE ANY  
NEEDED CORRECTIONS  
TO THIS INFORMATION

COMMENTS: Please add any comments you have about this survey or issues related to Emergency  
Medicine and ABEM. Please print clearly so your comments can be noted.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Please return this survey to ABEM at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your generous  
support. If ABEM can be of assistance, please call (517) 332-4800 or email research@abem.org.

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