

Resolution 26-305
Emergency Department Boarding
Palm Beach County Medical Society

1 Whereas, Emergency department (ED) boarding, defined as the practice of holding admitted
2 patients in the ED due to lack of available inpatient beds, is a widespread and persistent issue that
3 contributes to ED crowding and delays in care; and
4

5 Whereas, ED boarding has been identified as a system-level problem associated with increased
6 length of stay, worsened patient outcomes, and strain on emergency physicians and hospital staff;
7 and
8

9 Whereas, Prolonged ED boarding reduces ED efficiency and limits timely access to inpatient and
10 specialty care for patients; and
11

12 Whereas, Many causes of ED boarding stem from inpatient bed shortages, discharge delays, and
13 overall hospital capacity constraints that require coordinated system-level solutions rather than
14 isolated hospital-level interventions; and
15

16 Whereas, The Florida Medical Association supports policies that promote access to care and
17 appropriate oversight of hospital systems, including policies addressing hospital operations and
18 access to specialty services (FMA Policy P 35.001 and P 385.011); and
19

20 Whereas, There is currently no comprehensive statewide regulatory framework in Florida that
21 standardizes reporting, monitoring, or mitigation of ED boarding times; therefore, be it
22

23 **RESOLVED**, That the Florida Medical Association supports state-level legislation and regulation to
24 monitor, report, and reduce emergency department boarding times across hospitals in Florida; and
25 be it further
26

27 **RESOLVED**, That the FMA supports standardized public reporting of emergency department
28 boarding metrics, including time from admission decision to inpatient bed placement; and be it
29 further
30

31 **RESOLVED**, That the FMA supports the development of a statewide real-time hospital bed capacity
32 and availability tracking system to improve patient flow and reduce delays in care; and be it further
33

34 **RESOLVED**, That the FMA encourages coordination between hospitals and state agencies to
35 implement system-level strategies that address inpatient capacity constraints contributing to ED
36 boarding.

Fiscal Note:

Description	Amount	Budget Narrative
300 Staff hours	\$60,000	Can be accomplished with current staff
Total	\$60,000	\$0 added to the operating budget

Fiscal notes are an estimate of the cost to implement a given Resolution. All Resolutions that are adopted by the House of Delegates will be referred to the FMA Committee on Finance and Appropriations for fiscal consideration.

Reference Committee: III – Legislation and Miscellaneous

References

1. Florida Medical Association. *Public Policy Compendium*. P 35.001 Hospital Department Closures; P 385.011 Access to Specialty Care.
2. American Medical Association. *Addressing and Reducing Patient Boarding in Emergency Departments (Resolution 8, I-24)*.
3. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). *ED Boarding Summit Report*.
4. American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). *Policy Solutions to Emergency Department Boarding*.
5. Smith JL et al. *Emergency Department Crowding and Boarding Outcomes*.