

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Emergency Rooms Earn A C Minus In National Survey

The **American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)** released its first "National Report Card on the State of Emergency Medicine," and the news wasn't good. ACEP points to problems including overcrowding, declining access to care, soaring liability costs and a poor capacity to deal with public health or terrorist disasters.

Overall, the ACEP survey gave the nation's emergency care system a grade of C minus. ACEP's task force of experts graded each state's emergency care on a scale of A to F for access, quality, safety, public health, injury prevention and "medical liability environment." California, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia led the nation, with Arkansas, Idaho and Utah receiving D grades.