



American College of  
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

# POLICY STATEMENT

Approved January 2019

## *Health Care Guidelines for Cruise Ship Medical Facilities*

Reaffirmed January 2019,  
June 2013, October 2007  
and October 2001

Revised with current title  
December 1997

Originally approved  
September 1995 titled  
“Guidelines for  
Care of Cruise Ship  
Medical Facilities”

As an adjunct to this policy  
statement, ACEP has  
prepared a policy resource and  
education paper (PREP) titled  
“Cruise Ship Health Care  
Guidelines”

The American College of Emergency Physicians believes that appropriate emergency care and health care maintenance for passengers and crew members aboard ships sailing in international waters are desirable. The cruise ship industry and its medical departments should retain medical personnel who can:

- Provide quality maritime medical care for passengers and crew members aboard cruise ships;
- Initiate appropriate stabilization, diagnostic, and therapeutic maneuvers for critically ill or medically unstable patients;
- Support, comfort, and care for patients on board ship; and
- Assist, in conjunction with the cruise line, in the medical evacuation of patients in a timely fashion when appropriate.