



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
“Health Care Guidelines for
Cruise Ship Medical
Facilities”

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.