

April 2, 2025

Patricia Cody, RN, MBA  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Huntington Beach Hospital  
17772 Beach Blvd  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Dear Ms. Cody,

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), with support from The Gary and Mary West Health Institute and John A. Hartford Foundation, implemented the Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) program to recognize those emergency departments that provide excellent care for older adults. As such, we are excited to announce that Huntington Beach Hospital's Emergency Department has achieved the bronze standard — Level 3 GEDA accreditation.

Led by a remarkable team of interdisciplinary leaders, including David Ngo, MD; Leah Maier, RN; and Colleagues; Huntington Beach Hospital's accreditation signals to the public that your institution is focused on the highest standards of care for your communities' older adults. We are enthusiastic about the possibility of your organization marketing its geriatric expertise to your local community and are happy to share GEDA marketing materials in case these are helpful. In addition, ACEP will publicize and promote the GED Accreditation program through a variety of channels to convey the benefits of the program and accredited institutions.

The GEDA program is the culmination of years of progress in emergency care of older adults. In 2014, ACEP along with the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, Emergency Nurses Association, and American Geriatrics Society, developed and released geriatric ED guidelines, recommending measures ranging from adding geriatric-friendly equipment to specialized staff to more routine screening for delirium, dementia, and fall risk, among other vulnerabilities.<sup>1</sup>

The voluntary GEDA program, which includes three levels similar to trauma center designations, provides specific criteria and goals for emergency clinicians and administrators to target. The accreditation process provides more than two dozen best practices for geriatric care and the level of GEDA accreditation achieved depends upon how many of these best practices an emergency department is able to meet. A Level 3 emergency department must incorporate many of these best practices, along with providing interdisciplinary geriatric education, and have geriatric appropriate equipment and supplies available.

In the coming weeks, the GEDA Board of Governors (BoG) will provide feedback to help Huntington Beach Hospital continue to evolve its geriatric ED and this feedback will also serve as areas of focus for the reaccreditation process in three years.

Please recognize the interdisciplinary accreditation team for their remarkable accomplishment. Congratulations Huntington Beach Hospital!

Sincerely,

Sandy Schneider, MD, FACEP

Kevin Biese, MD, MAT, FACEP



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<sup>1</sup> American College of Emergency Physicians, The American Geriatrics Society, Emergency Nurses Association, and the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. Geriatric Emergency Department Guidelines, 2013. Available at: <https://www.acep.org/geriEDguidelines/#sm.011c0br717chdgj10i01r06rvh3ye>. Accessed February 27, 2018.