



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

# House Committee on Insurance

September 6, 2022

## Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities (FEMC)

- As defined by Texas Health and Safety Code Section 254.001, a freestanding emergency medical care (FEMC) facility is a facility, structurally separate and distinct from a hospital, that receives an individual and provides emergency care.
- FEMCs are required to report administrative, claims-level billing data on all outpatient emergency department visits, including self-pay (claims that do not go through insurance) or charity (free or discounted medical care).

# House Bill 2041, 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

- House Bill 2041 amended Section 108.002(10), Health and Safety Code by adding a freestanding emergency medical care facility, as defined by Section 254.001, including a freestanding emergency medical care facility that is exempt from the licensing requirements of Chapter 254 under Section 254.052(8).
- The amended language required freestanding emergency medical care facilities to report all emergency room visits to their facility.

# Interim Charge

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- The analysis was conducted in response to Charge 3 for the House Committee on Insurance.
- The charge involves the following:
  - the implementation, compliance, and enforcement related to freestanding emergency rooms
  - claims data from freestanding emergency rooms

# FEMC Data Collection

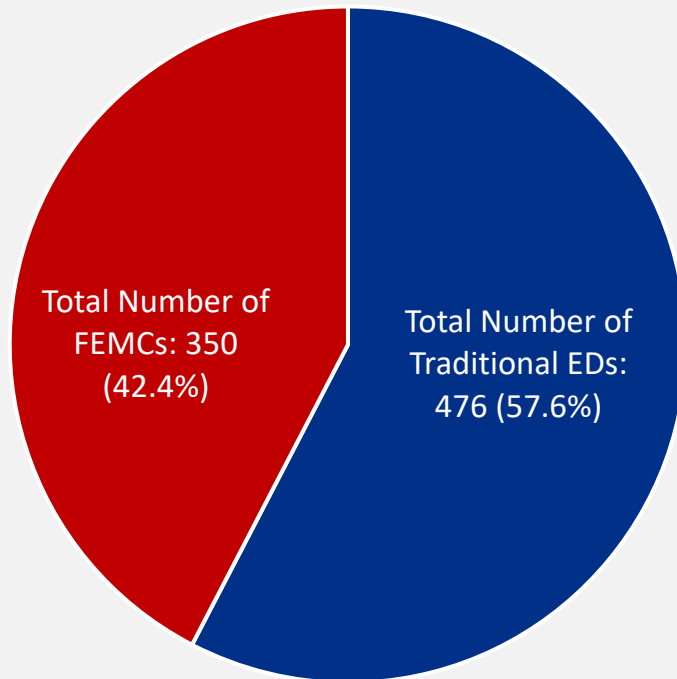
Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) within the Department of State Health Services:

- Started collecting FEMC data beginning with Quarter 4 2020
- Collects FEMC data on a quarterly basis
- Obtains data from approximately 350 actively licensed FEMCs that provide emergency services throughout the state of Texas
- All data shown cover Quarter 4 2020 through Quarter 4 2021



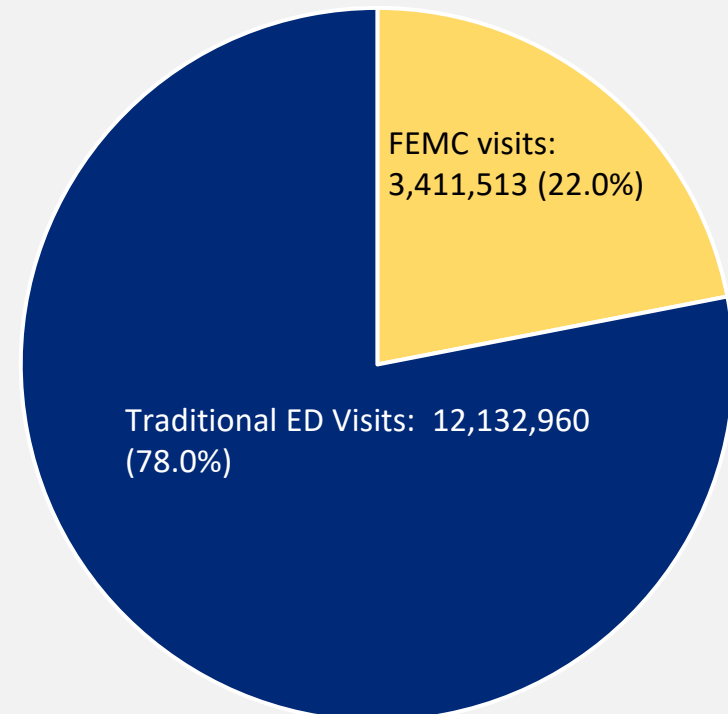
# Traditional Emergency Department vs Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities

Total Number of all Emergency Facilities



Total Number of all ED Facilities :826

Total Number of Visits: Traditional EDs vs FEMCs (Q4 2020 – Q4 2021)



Total Number of all ED Visits :15,544,473

# Top Five Most Common Diagnoses for Traditional Emergency Department vs Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility Visits

Diagnoses	Traditional Emergency Department (N)	% Total
COVID-19 (U07.1)	666,669	5.5%
Acute upper respiratory infection, unspecified (J06.9)	238,327	2.0%
Other chest pain (R07.89)	225,124	1.9%
Urinary tract infection, site not specified (N39.0)	203,980	1.7%
Chest pain, unspecified (R07.9)	189,010	1.6%
All other diagnoses	10,609,850	87.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,132,960</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Diagnoses	Freestanding Emergency Medical Centre(N)	% Total
COVID-19 (U07.1)	308,398	9.0%
Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19 (Z20.822)	298,918	8.8%
Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases (Z08.28)	213,135	6.3%
Acute upper respiratory infection, unspecified (J06.9)	95,806	2.8%
Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out (Z03.818)	75,391	2.2%
All other diagnoses	2,419,865	70.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,411,513</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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# Top Five Most Common HCPC Procedures (all billable procedures) for Traditional Emergency Department vs Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility

Procedures	Traditional Emergency Department (N)	% Total	Procedures	Freestanding Emergency Medical Centre(N)	% Total
Low osmolar contrast material (Q9967)	80,593,765	23.2%	Low osmolar contrast material (Q9967)	13,605,118	29.9%
Hospital Observation Service, per hour (G0378)	17,888,675	5.2%	Injection, acetaminophen, 10 mg (J0131)	3,888,193	8.5%
Injection, acetaminophen, 10 mg (J0131)	8,778,658	2.5%	Emergency Department Visit (99283)	1,510,483	3.3%
Injection, insulin, per 5 units (J1815)	8,107,953	2.3%	Injection, dexamethasone sodium phosphate, 1 mg (J1100)	1,152,584	2.5%
Injection, pantoprazole sodium, per vial (C9113)	7,123,948	2.1%	Injection, ondansetron hydrochloride, per 1 mg (J2405)	1,042,858	2.3%
All other HCPC procedures	224,247,825.86	64.7%	All other HCPC procedures	24,371,463.54	53.5%
<b>Total (all HCPC procedures)</b>	<b>346,740,824.86*</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>Total (all HCPC procedures)</b>	<b>45,570,699.54*</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\* Decimal places are allowed when counting the number of HCPCS procedures.



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# Top Five Most Common Procedures (ICD10-PCS) for Traditional Emergency Department vs Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility

Procedures	Traditional Emergency Department (N)	% Total	Procedures	Freestanding Emergency Medical Centre(N)	% Total
Emergency Department Visit (99283):Level 3	2,901,721	23.9%	Emergency Department Visit (99283):Level 3	1,390,149	40.8%
Emergency Department Visit (99283): Level 4	2,228,444	18.4%	Emergency Department Visit (99283): Level 4	586,149	17.2%
Emergency Department Visit (99285): Level 5	1,018,963	8.4%	Emergency Department Visit (99282): Level 2	359,169	10.5%
Emergency Department Visit (99282): Level 2	705,621	5.8%	Emergency Department Visit (99285): Level 5	180,054	5.3%
Diagnostic Radiology (Diagnostic Imaging) Procedures of the Abdomen (74177)	642,370	5.3%	Diagnostic Radiology (Diagnostic Imaging) Procedures of the Abdomen (74177)	105,594	3.1%
All other ICD10-PCS Procedures	4,635,841	38.2%	All other ICD10-PCS Procedures	790,398	23.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,132,960</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,411,513</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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# Payer Source Findings

Payer Source	Traditional Emergency Department Visits (N)	% Total	Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility Visits (N)	% Total
Private Health Insurance	3,715,783	30.6%	2,168,145	63.6%
Self or Uninsured	2,703,998	22.3%	442,323	13.0%
Medicaid	2,629,425	21.7%	400,214	11.7%
Medicare	2,614,074	21.6%	279,737	8.2%
Other	390,954	3.2%	105,364	3.1%
Unknown	78,726	0.65%	15,730	0.46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,132,960</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,411,513</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Top Five Procedures with the Highest Procedure Charge Difference

HCPCS Procedure	Facility Type	Average Unit Price	% Difference	Frequency (N)
Hospital Observation Service, per hour (G0378)	Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility	\$1,293.91	884.0%	528,858
	Traditional Emergency Department	\$131.49		18,240,338
Injection, pantoprazole sodium, per vial (C9113)	Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility	\$106.51	628.4%	22,109
	Traditional Emergency Department	\$14.62		7,126,848
Injection, dexamethasone sodium phosphate, 1 mg (J1100)	Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility	\$18.89	79.5%	1,152,584
	Traditional Emergency Department	\$10.53		3,750,038
Injection, Ondansetron Hydrochloride, per 1 mg (J2405)	Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility	\$39.77	66.1%	1,042,858
	Traditional Emergency Department	\$23.94		5,769,542
Injection, Insulin, per 5 units	Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility	\$17.05	51.9%	72,033
	Traditional Emergency Department	\$11.23		8,393,689

# Data Limitations

- THCIC collects self-reported, claim-level data, which may contain inaccurate and invalid values that THCIC is not allowed to modify.
- Data cannot be changed after the correction period given to the healthcare facilities.
- Only facilities that reported data to THCIC are included in the dataset use for this analysis.



**Thank you!**