

New Member Spotlight: Elkhart Emergency Physicians (EEP)



Elkhart Emergency Physicians (EEP) is a democratic group of 41 physicians and 25 mid-level professionals. EEP staffs the emergency departments for four hospitals in northern Indiana. EEP has been supporting this community for over 35 years. For additional information on Elkhart Emergency Physicians, please click [here](#).

Excerpts from a conversation with John Rice, MD, FACEP, Treasurer, Elkhart Emergency Physicians

John Rice, MD, FACEP, one of the partners at EEP, is a working emergency medicine physician and the group's Treasurer. Dr. Rice has been with the group for almost 20 years and has seen it grow and expand over the years. Dr. Rice emphasized one of the keys to their success has been their attention to the highest quality patient care and appropriate hospital staffing. Dr. Rice said that once people come to the Michiana area, with its proximity to the Great Lakes, they rarely leave and the group's turnover is low.

Dr. Rice oversees the financial and operations areas of Elkhart Emergency Physicians. With this wide range of responsibility, John is involved in many issues in the changing landscape of emergency medicine. John commented that EDPMA plays an important role for him and his team as it acts as a "first alert" to legislative issues or bad payer activities occurring at the state or federal level. Dr. Rice commented that EDPMA's resources are useful and practical (including model letters and analysis of legislation). John has found that by staying up-to-date with the information offered through EDPMA membership, he and his team gain a real understanding of the tactics and strategies used in similar situations or in other states. John highlighted the usefulness of EDPMA's educational resources, and in particular, the toolbox resources on EDPMA's website where there are practical and hands-on resources available. John said, "EDPMA's information helps me pull together the resources needed to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and plan my response." John emphasized that EDPMA's collaborative approach in working with other emergency medicine organizations is productive and effective. Dr. Rice commented that other emergency medicine organizations often focus on many issues as they have a broad mandate. Dr. Rice appreciates that EDPMA stays focused on reimbursement issues and bad payer behavior.

Also, through Dr. Rice's state activities, he has the opportunity to meet with his state lawmakers. Having EDPMA's information at his fingertips is helpful for these meetings. Dr. Rice finds that meeting with state legislators in person and explaining an issue more fully usually results in a sympathetic lawmaker that may be able to make a difference.

Dr. Rice enjoys spending time with his family including six children (including one set of triplets). He also enjoys the Great Lakes area and outdoor activities.