

Hospital-Owned Emergency Departments Gain Momentum as Hospitals Seek Greater Control and Sustainability

Organizations explore insourced emergency medicine models to improve performance, strengthen physician alignment, and protect long-term financial stability

LAKELAND, FL, UNITED STATES, August 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As hospitals across the country confront mounting financial pressures, workforce challenges, and growing demands for operational accountability, healthcare leaders are reevaluating traditional outsourced emergency department management arrangements in favor of hospital-owned and hospital-led emergency medicine programs.



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When hospitals own and actively manage their ED programs, they can make decisions that prioritize patient care and organizational goals rather than outside interests.”

*Brennan McDonnell, ED
Practice Manager*

While outsourced physician staffing models have long been common, hospitals are increasingly seeking greater control over the clinical, operational, and financial performance of their emergency departments through insourced models. Many rural hospitals and community health systems are finding the approach particularly attractive as they seek sustainable solutions to physician recruitment, coverage stability, and shrinking reimbursement margins.

The movement toward hospital-owned emergency departments reflects a broader shift across healthcare

toward greater provider alignment and operational control. A recent national analysis of nearly 4,000 hospital emergency departments found that health system-owned physician groups now staff approximately one-third (33%) of all emergency department visits in the United States, making hospitals one of the largest employers of emergency physicians.

According to [In-House Medical](#) (IHM), a pioneer in helping hospitals transition emergency medicine and hospital medicine programs to insourced models, hospital-owned emergency departments offer several advantages, including:

- *Stronger alignment between providers and hospital leadership
- *Greater transparency into operational and financial performance
- *Enhanced flexibility in staffing and service delivery
- *Improved physician engagement and retention
- *Better integration with hospital mission, culture, and community needs
- *Reduced dependence on external management organizations

Securing and maintaining ownership of the emergency department does not mean managing every operational challenge alone. In-House Medical provides the infrastructure, advocacy, and expertise needed to support the hospital, its providers, and the department.

“When you have In-House Medical’s insourcing structure on your side, you have someone backing you, advocating for you, and helping protect your interests.” explained DeeDee Gilmore, NP, “You are not left to navigate challenges alone—you have a network of people you can turn to who will listen, respond, and help get results.”

The trend comes amid continued scrutiny of private equity involvement in healthcare staffing and increasing pressure on hospitals to manage costs while maintaining high-quality care. Healthcare leaders are placing renewed emphasis on local governance, physician engagement, and service line accountability as key drivers of organizational success.

Why Hospital-Owned Emergency Departments Improve Care

Hospital-owned emergency departments create a more integrated care model by aligning physicians directly with the hospital’s quality standards, operational goals, and mission. Rather than operating as a separate contracted service, emergency physicians become active participants in system-wide initiatives focused on patient care, safety, and performance.

“Ownership creates accountability,” said Brennan McDonnell. “When emergency physicians are fully aligned with hospital leadership and mission, everyone is working toward the same goals: delivering exceptional patient care, improving outcomes, supporting staff, and meeting the needs of the community. That level of alignment is difficult to achieve when critical clinical services are managed by outside organizations.”

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, industry observers expect more hospitals to assess whether hospital-owned emergency medicine programs can help strengthen resilience, improve performance, and create lasting value for the communities they serve.

About In-House Medical

In-House Medical works with hospitals nationwide to evaluate, transition, and optimize emergency medicine and hospital medicine service lines through hands-on leadership, operational expertise, and physician-hospital alignment strategies. The company's model is designed to help healthcare organizations regain control of essential service lines while improving efficiency, quality, and financial outcomes. Through leadership development, staffing support, analytics, recruiting, and operational transformation, In-House Medical helps hospitals build provider programs that are aligned with their mission and community needs.

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