A medical industry perspective – supporting small business, the economic engine of Canada
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TOPICS
Physician practice, compensation, forms

Documents
THIRD-PARTY FORMS
(Update 2017)

RATIONAL
It is important for physicians to understand and be aware of the ethical issues involved in the provision of third-party forms. These forms are often used by employers, insurance companies, and other third parties to verify the medical necessity of a disability or to provide information to support a claim. The physician should be aware of the ethical implications of providing these forms, including the potential for conflicts of interest and the possibility of undermining the patient-physician relationship. Physicians should also be familiar with any applicable regulations and guidelines related to third-party forms.

SCOPE OF POLICY
This policy is intended to provide guidance for physicians and healthcare professionals on issues related to third-party forms. It is not intended to address all possible scenarios, and physicians should consult appropriate legal and ethical resources for guidance in specific situations.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The physician should ensure that the information provided in the form is accurate and complete. The physician should obtain consent from the patient before providing any information, and should maintain confidentiality of the patient's medical information.

2. The physician should avoid any conflicts of interest that may arise from providing third-party forms. This includes avoiding situations where the physician's compensation may be contingent on the outcome of the claim or where the physician has a personal interest in the outcome.

3. The physician should be aware of any applicable legal and ethical requirements related to third-party forms. This includes any requirements related to the disclosure of medical information and the provision of services.

4. The physician should consider the potential for harm to the patient or the public that may arise from providing third-party forms. This includes any potential for adverse outcomes due to the provision of inaccurate or incomplete information.

Some states/provinces have specific laws that must be considered when filling out these forms. If in doubt, the physician should obtain legal advice on local laws before providing any information.