Standing Committee on Health’s study on violence faced by healthcare workers

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14052

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2019-05-14

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Ethics and medical professionalism
Health human resources
Physician practice, compensation, forms

Documents
Auditing Physician Billings

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy1878

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

LAST REVIEWED
2019-03-03

DATE
2004-12-04

TOPICS
Physician practice, compensation, forms

Auditing Physician Billings

Purpose:
The CMA has documented a range of improper billings by physicians. Billing errors can lead to financial losses to the physician and to provincial and federal revenues. Auditing physician billings is one way to ensure the integrity of the billing system.

Background:
Auditing is a quantitative means of measuring the efficiency of a process or of verifying the correctness of the results of a process. Auditing is generally performed in organizations for the purpose of improving the organization's performance, and also as a means of ensuring that the organization is in compliance with regulatory requirements.

Billings are audited annually through a self-audit of the report of the billing software. The billing software is designed to prevent the submission of claims for services not provided or services provided in excess of the limit set for each physician. The CMA will conduct an audit on a sample of claims from a physician's practice to ensure that the billing is correct. The sample size will be determined by the number of claims submitted by the physician in the previous year.

This policy is consistent with the Canadian Medical Association's (CMA) policies on medical ethics and the CMA's Code of Ethics for Physicians.

Recommendations:
The CMA recommends that the following steps be taken to ensure the accuracy of physician billings:

- Physicians should be provided with training on the billing process and the policies and procedures related to billing.
- The CMA should develop guidelines for physicians on how to bill for services provided.
- The CMA should monitor physician billings and take appropriate action when necessary.

Implementation:
The CMA will work with provincial and federal governments to develop a standardized system for auditing physician billings. The CMA will also work with the Canadian Medical Protective Association to develop a sample of claims for each physician for audit.

Evaluation:
The effectiveness of the auditing process will be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

References:
A new vision for Canada: family practice— the patient’s medical home 2019
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14024

POLICY TYPE
Policy endorsement

DATE
2019-03-02

TOPICS
Physician practice, compensation, forms
Health systems, system funding and performance