Answering the Wake-up Call: CMA’s Public Health Action Plan

CMA submission to the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health

June 25, 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public health response of Canada is a reflection of our community values. It is the responsibility of every public health agency to ensure that Canada is ready to respond to any emerging health threat. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recommends that the federal government provide financial support to ensure that the public health system is adequately resourced and equipped to address emerging threats.

We recommend that the federal government:

1. Establish a framework for the coordination and surveillance of public health threats.
2. Provide financial support for public health agencies to ensure that they are adequately resourced.
3. Develop a national public health strategy.
4. Establish a national public health database.
5. Develop and implement a national public health education program.

Documents

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14079

**POLICY TYPE**
Policy document

**DATE**
2019-03-02

**TOPICS**
Health care and patient safety
Population health, health equity, public health

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**BACKGROUND TO CMA POLICY**

Antimicrobial Resistance
See also CMA Policy: Antimicrobial Resistance 2019 R3

Although it is often hidden from public awareness, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is effectively a public health challenge and a threat to both human and animal health. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified AMR as one of the biggest threats to public health in the 21st century. The spread of resistance to antimicrobial agents severely limits the effective treatment of infections and the prevention of communicable diseases. This policy, developed in consultation with experts in the field, will help guide the CMA in its efforts to promote optimal use of antimicrobials and combat AMR.

Dr. somehow, the former head of the World Health Organization (WHO), declared antimicrobial resistance “the next global threat to public health” in 2019. WHO estimates that AMR is responsible for 700,000 deaths per year. The spread of resistance to antimicrobials poses a major threat to health care systems, affecting both the effectiveness of treatment and the cost of health care. Resistance to antibiotics, for example, is often associated with hospital-acquired infections, leading to increased morbidity and mortality.

Reducing the use of antimicrobials in agriculture can help prevent the spread of resistance. However, the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials in veterinary and human medicine are major contributors to the development of resistance. The CMA policy recommends actions to reduce the unnecessary and inappropriate use of antimicrobials in both sectors.

The CMA Policy: Antimicrobial Resistance 2019 R3 provides guidance on how to reduce the inappropriate use of antimicrobials. It includes recommendations for the development of antimicrobial stewardship programs, education and training for health care professionals, and the establishment of surveillance systems to monitor the spread of resistance.

In summary, the CMA Policy on Antimicrobial Resistance aims to guide the CMA in its efforts to combat AMR and promote optimal use of antimicrobials. By addressing this global public health challenge, we can help ensure the effectiveness of treatments and prevent the spread of resistance.

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**References**

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**Appendix**

A summary of the key points of the CMA Policy: Antimicrobial Resistance 2019 R3:

- **Overview:** AMR is a public health challenge and a threat to both human and animal health.
- **Global Threat:** WHO identified AMR as one of the biggest threats to public health in the 21st century.
- **Economic Impact:** Resistance to antimicrobials poses a major threat to health care systems, affecting both the effectiveness of treatment and the cost of health care.
- **Recommendations:** The policy recommends actions to reduce the unnecessary and inappropriate use of antimicrobials in both sectors.
- **Surveillance:** Establishing surveillance systems to monitor the spread of resistance.
- **Education and Training:** Developing antimicrobial stewardship programs and training health care professionals.

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**About the CMA Policybase**

The CMA Policybase is the official repository of the Canadian Medical Association’s policies. It provides access to the latest policy documents and resources to support the work of health care professionals and policymakers.

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*p. 2*
Appropriateness in health care
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11516

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

LAST REVIEWED
2020-02-29

DATE
2014-12-06

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety

Documents

Appropriateness in Health Care

Summary
This policy discusses the concept of appropriateness in health care and reviews the
research literature on its definition and use. It offers a number of recommendations to
improve the quality of care. The policy is intended to support the Canadian Interdisciplinary
Palliative Care Competency Framework.

Introduction
In health care, the concept of appropriateness has gained increasing importance. It is
perceived as a way to ensure that patients receive the right treatment at the right
time in the right setting. The concept is similar to the concept of quality in health care,
which emphasizes the quality of care that is provided to patients.

This policy discusses the concept of appropriateness in health care and reviews the
research literature on its definition and use. It offers a number of recommendations to
improve the quality of care. The policy is intended to support the Canadian Interdisciplinary
Palliative Care Competency Framework.
The Canadian Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Competency Framework
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14439

POLICY TYPE
Policy endorsement

DATE
2020-12-05

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Canadian Medical Association submission to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce: Higher rate now: Why excise tax on tobacco is long overdue for an increase
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11129

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2014-05-15

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

Clinical guideline for homeless and vulnerably housed people, and people

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association p. 8
Clinical guideline for homeless and vulnerably housed people, and people with lived homelessness experience

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14165

POLICY TYPE
Policy endorsement

DATE
2019-10-17

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Population health, health equity, public health
CMA Pre-budget Submission
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14259

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2020-08-07

TOPICS
Physician practice, compensation, forms
Health information and e-health
Health care and patient safety
Health systems, system funding and performance

Documents
CMA's Recommendations for Bill S-5: An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers’ Health Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13641

**POLICY TYPE**  
Parliamentary submission

**DATE**  
2017-04-07

**TOPICS**  
Health care and patient safety  
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
CMA’s Recommendations for Bill S-5 An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers’ Health Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13918

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2018-02-15

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Health care and patient safety

Documents
CMA Statement on Racism

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14245

CMA POLICY

CMA Statement on Racism

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is committed to addressing racism and advocating for equitable health care.

The web page contains a policy document titled "CMA Statement on Racism". The website link provided is https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14245.

The document includes a policy type of "Policy document" dated 2020-06-02, with topics focusing on Ethics and medical professionalism and Health care and patient safety.

Documents

To: [Recipient]  
From: [Sender]

Subject: CMA Statement on Racism

Dear [Recipient],

I am writing to share the CMA Statement on Racism, which outlines the association's commitments and actions towards addressing racism in healthcare.

The statement emphasizes the importance of integrity, respect, and fairness in the provision of health care, highlighting the need for equitable treatment and outcomes for all patients.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Title]

Canadian Medical Association
CMA Submission to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities’ study of Bill C-3, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14464

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2021-12-15

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Committee Appearance – Justice and Human Rights: Bill C-7 – Amending the Criminal Code Regarding Medical Assistance in Dying
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14374

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2020-11-05

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) supports the establishment of a national, comprehensive, reliable system of research and education on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in Canada. Such a system could be part of a broader strategy to encourage evidence-based approaches to health care.

The CMA is concerned by the increasing number of CAM practitioners that are not regulated or are regulated by different governing bodies.

The public should be informed about the nature and diversity of CAM therapies and about the need for appropriate professional training and quality assurance in CAM. This will help them make informed decisions about their health care.

The CMA encourages the development of a national network of CAM practitioners, which could be part of a broader strategy to encourage evidence-based approaches to health care.

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Concussion in Sport, Leisure, and Occupational Settings

Policy document

2019-03-02

Head injury and sport (2011)

Health care and patient safety
Population health, health equity, public health

Background to Concussion in Sport, Leisure, and Occupational Settings

1) Improving Knowledge and Practice

The background of the proposed front-of-package labelling system is the recognition of the need for a national strategy to improve public health awareness about the risks and prevention of concussions. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recognizes the importance of concussion education and the need for clear and concise information on the packaging of sports equipment to help prevent concussions in athletes.

2) Evidence-Based Practice

Concussion is a form of mild traumatic brain injury that can occur from a blow, bump, or jolt to the head or body. Concussions are common in sports like football, hockey, and soccer, as well as in contact sports like rugby, wrestling, and gymnastics. The CMA supports evidence-based practice and policy development.

In order to minimize the risk of concussions, it is important to follow guidelines and best practices that have been established by experts in the field. The CMA recommends the use of protective equipment, such as helmets and mouthguards, to reduce the risk of head injuries.

The proposed front-of-package labelling system would provide clear and easy-to-understand information about the risks and prevention of concussions. This would help athletes and their families make informed decisions about their safety.

3) Consultation with Stakeholders

Consultation with stakeholders is a key component of the proposed front-of-package labelling system. The CMA recognizes the importance of engaging with athletes, coaches, parents, and other stakeholders to ensure that the proposed labelling system meets the needs of all groups.

The CMA is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure that the proposed front-of-package labelling system is effective and meets the needs of all groups. The CMA encourages stakeholders to provide feedback and to participate in the consultation process.

The proposed front-of-package labelling system is a step towards improving public health awareness about the risks and prevention of concussions. The CMA supports evidence-based practice and policy development in order to minimize the risk of concussions and to promote the health and well-being of all athletes.
Consultation on proposed front-of-package labelling

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13882

POLICY TYPE
Response to consultation

DATE
2018-04-23

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

Consultation on the renewal of Federal Tobacco Control Strategy
CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association p. 18
Consultation on the renewal of Federal Tobacco Control Strategy
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13804

POLICY TYPE
Response to consultation

DATE
2017-04-05

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Emergency federal measures to care for and protect Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14132

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2020-03-16

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety

Documents