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

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

June 2003

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public health service, as an essential social responsibility, is the foundation of our community values. It is the fundamental right people are entitled to expect from their government. The public health system is critical to protect the health of all Canadians and to ensure the most efficient use of health resources. The public health system needs to be strengthened, and it is the role of the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health to recommend how to strengthen the system.

The CMA has prepared this submission to help guide the development of a national public health strategy.

Key points are:

- The public health service is a critical component of the health care system.
- The public health service needs to be strengthened and better coordinated.
- Public health needs to be integrated into all aspects of the health care system.
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The CMA recommends that the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health consider the following recommendations in its development of a national public health strategy:

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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

Documents
Appropriateness in Health Care

Policy document

Last reviewed: 2020-02-29
Date: 2014-12-06

Topics: Health care and patient safety

Introduction

In health care systems, the concept of appropriateness is core to quality improvement and patient safety. It is broad in scope, covering the range of issues from minor errors to more serious ones. Appropriateness is critical to ensuring that care is effective, efficient, and safe.

Building on that definition, it includes the following policy recommendations:

1. Prevent unnecessary and redundant testing and treatment, focusing on comprehensive disease management and strategies for which evidence suggests effectiveness and safety.
2. Implement and improve strategies to reduce inappropriate use of medications and treatments.
3. Develop clinical guidelines and protocols to improve patient outcomes and ensure evidence-based practice.

Conclusion

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recommends that health care providers:

- Ensure that all health care services are delivered in an appropriate manner.
- Collaborate with patients to discuss the appropriateness of treatments.
- Continuously monitor and evaluate the appropriateness of care to improve quality and patient outcomes.

Policies

The CMA has developed policies that address appropriate health care services. These policies are available on the CMA Policybase website. For more information, please visit the CMA Policybase website.
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 on Bill S-209, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (prize fights)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10708

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2013-04-15
TOPICS  Health care and patient safety

Documents
Canadian Medical Association Submission to Health Canada’s Notice of proposed order to amend the schedule to the Tobacco Act
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11434

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2014-11-10
TOPICS  Health care and patient safety
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Canadian Medical Association Submission to the House of Commons Study on E-Cigarettes

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11437

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2014-11-27

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 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

Documents
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

Addendum to CMA Recommendations for Bill S-5: An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and
CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
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

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2020-06-02

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism
Health care and patient safety

Documents
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
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

Documents

Committee Appearance – Justice and Human Rights:
Bill C-7 – Amending the Criminal Code Regarding Medical Assistance in Dying
November 5, 2020

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
Complementary and alternative medicine (update 2015)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11529

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2015-05-30

REPLACES
Complementary and alternative medicine (Update 2008)

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

Documents

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CMA POLICY

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
(Update 2015)

This statement sets out the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) position on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). CAM includes practices and treatments that work within the health care system as well as those that are not recognized within established health care systems. Many of these practices are not supported by adequate scientific evidence and CMA is not recommending them for use in health care. However, in some cases, CAM treatments and practices can be of benefit to patients. CAM has no recognized common definition and includes therapies that are not part of conventional medicine systems and that have not been approved by Health Canada. CAM is distinct from alternative medicine, which is a wider term that includes all practices and treatments that are not recognized within established health care systems.

- CAM treatments may offer benefits to patients
- CAM practitioners may not have the necessary training or skills to provide safe and effective care
- CAM treatments may interact with conventional medications or therapies
- CAM treatments may not be covered by insurance

CMA supports patient access to CAM in a variety of settings.

- CMA encourages patients to discuss their use of CAM with their doctors
- CMA recommends that doctors educate themselves about CAM treatments and therapies
- CMA recommends that doctors provide guidance to patients on the safety and efficacy of CAM treatments

CMA Policy on Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 2015

CMA Policy on Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 2008

CMA Policy on Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 2000
Concussion in Sport, Leisure, and Occupational Settings

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14023

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2019-03-02

REPLACES
Head injury and sport (2011)

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

Background to Concussion in Sport, Leisure, and Occupational Settings

1) How this Background to Policy Should be Shaped

This background paper (BIP) is intended for those with an interest in concussion in sport, leisure, and occupational settings. The Concussion in Sport, Leisure, and Occupational Settings BIP is intended to serve as a basis for discussion and deliberation regarding the development of evidence-based practice and national guidelines.

2) How the Problem is Defined

Concussion is a common public health concern. It is an injury to the brain caused by a head impact or acceleration that produces a disturbance in brain function. Concussion is typically divided into closed-head and penetrating injuries. In most settings, a concussion typically results in a temporary period of altered consciousness and loss of memory. Symptoms may include headache, dizziness, memory, concentration, and sleep disturbances. The diagnosis of concussion is based on a clinical evaluation that includes a physical examination, a medical history, and a standardized concussion assessment tool.

3) Why is this Concussion in Sport, Leisure, and Occupational Settings BIP Needed?

The Concussion in Sport, Leisure, and Occupational Settings BIP is needed to provide evidence-based guidance for the management of concussion in sport, leisure, and occupational settings. This guidance is intended to be used by healthcare professionals, educators, and employers to ensure the safe return to school, work, and play following a concussion.

4) Summary of Policy Issues

Concussion is a common public health concern, with an estimated 5 million cases per year in the United States. Concussion is typically divided into closed-head and penetrating injuries. In most settings, a concussion typically results in a temporary period of altered consciousness and loss of memory. The diagnosis of concussion is based on a clinical evaluation that includes a physical examination, a medical history, and a standardized concussion assessment tool.
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
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

CMA recommendations for:
EMERGENCY FEDERAL MEASURES TO CARE FOR AND PROTECT CANADIANS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Submitted to the Minister of Finance
March 16, 2020

Dear Minister of Finance,

It is with great urgency and importance that I am writing to offer recommendations for emergency federal measures to support the timely expansion of health care and to ensure the continued care for Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

First, it is critical that the federal government provide immediate financial support to our health care system to ensure that we can continue to provide essential care to the sick and vulnerable Canadians. The pandemic has put unprecedented pressure on our health care system, and it is essential that we provide adequate support to keep our system functioning.

Second, I believe it is also important to consider the broader economic implications of the pandemic and take steps to support the economy. This could include providing financial support to industries that have been hit hard by the pandemic, such as tourism and hospitality.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters. I am available to provide further details on these recommendations at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Your Contact Information]