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**
CMA Submission to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology’s study of Bill C-3, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14462

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2021-12-10

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

November 30, 2021

[Letterhead]

To: Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

Re: Submission in the context of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology’s study of Bill C-3, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code

Dear Committee,

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is pleased to submit the following comments in response to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology’s study of Bill C-3, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code.

CMA supports the Committee’s focus on the ethical and professional aspects of medical practice, particularly in the context of the criminal justice system. We believe that physicians have a duty to ensure that the actions of their patients are within the law and that they act in the best interests of their patients. We also support the Committee’s emphasis on the importance of medical professionalism and the need for clear guidelines and standards for ethical practice.

CMA is concerned about the potential for criminalization of medical practice, particularly in the context of patients who may be at risk of harm. We believe that it is essential for physicians to be able to provide care to patients without fear of legal consequences, and we support the Committee’s efforts to ensure that the Bill does not unduly restrict medical practice.

CMA is also concerned about the potential for the Bill to be used as a tool to limit access to abortion services. We believe that women should have access to safe and legal abortion services, and we support the Committee’s efforts to ensure that the Bill does not limit access to these services.

CMA recommends that the Committee consider the following:

1. That the Bill be modified to allow for clear guidelines and standards for ethical practice, particularly in the context of patients who may be at risk of harm.
2. That the Bill be modified to ensure that it does not unduly restrict medical practice.
3. That the Bill be modified to ensure that it does not limit access to abortion services.

We appreciate the Committee’s efforts to ensure that the Bill is consistent with the ethical and professional standards of medical practice.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

Canadian Medical Association

References:


CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Medical Association input in advance of the World Health Assembly Special Session
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14461

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2021-11-17
TOPICS  Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
New Criminal Code offence to protect health workers from threats and violence, including online
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14463

POLICY TYPE: Parliamentary submission
DATE: 2021-11-16
TOPICS: Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Canada’s doctors and nurses urgently calling for federal measures to address Canada’s health workforce crisis
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14460

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2021-11-09

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
Vaccine certificates
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14448

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2021-08-21

TOPICS
Population health, health equity, public health
Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Vaccine certificates

Policy position recommendation

1. Physicians should be encouraged to promote and educate patients about vaccine certificates as a tool for the safe and equitable implementation of vaccines. This includes providing information on the importance of vaccination, the potential benefits of vaccine certificates, and any associated risks. The use of vaccine certificates should be guided by ethical principles and should be voluntary, with clear communication about the purpose and benefits of vaccine certificates to patients.

2. Physicians should support the development and implementation of a comprehensive vaccination strategy that addresses equity and access. This includes advocating for equitable access to vaccines, particularly in underserved communities, and promoting vaccine education and awareness campaigns.

3. Physicians should be aware of the potential for vaccine certificates to be used in discriminatory practices and should advocate against such practices. This includes ensuring that vaccine certificates are not used to exclude individuals from access to services or opportunities, and that they are used in a manner that respects patient autonomy.

4. Physicians should participate in the development and implementation of vaccine certificates, ensuring that they are used in a way that respects ethical principles, privacy, and confidentiality. This includes ensuring that vaccine certificates are not used to discriminate against patients or to track or monitor individuals.

5. Physicians should be aware of the potential for vaccine certificates to be misused or misappropriated, and should advocate against such practices. This includes ensuring that vaccine certificates are not used in ways that violate patient autonomy or privacy, and that they are used in a manner that respects ethical principles.

6. Physicians should participate in the development and implementation of vaccine certificates, ensuring that they are used in a way that respects ethical principles, privacy, and confidentiality. This includes ensuring that vaccine certificates are not used to discriminate against patients or to track or monitor individuals.

7. Physicians should be aware of the potential for vaccine certificates to be misused or misappropriated, and should advocate against such practices. This includes ensuring that vaccine certificates are not used in ways that violate patient autonomy or privacy, and that they are used in a manner that respects ethical principles.

8. Physicians should participate in the development and implementation of vaccine certificates, ensuring that they are used in a way that respects ethical principles, privacy, and confidentiality. This includes ensuring that vaccine certificates are not used to discriminate against patients or to track or monitor individuals.

9. Physicians should be aware of the potential for vaccine certificates to be misused or misappropriated, and should advocate against such practices. This includes ensuring that vaccine certificates are not used in ways that violate patient autonomy or privacy, and that they are used in a manner that respects ethical principles.

10. Physicians should participate in the development and implementation of vaccine certificates, ensuring that they are used in a way that respects ethical principles, privacy, and confidentiality. This includes ensuring that vaccine certificates are not used to discriminate against patients or to track or monitor individuals.
Global vaccine equity
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14451

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
DATE  2021-08-21
TOPICS  Ethics and medical professionalism
         Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Guidelines for physicians in interactions with industry / Recommendations for physician innovators

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14454

Guidelines for physicians in interactions with industry

See also companion policy Recommendations for physician innovators

Guideline development is occurring in the context of rapid advances in technology and the pharmaceutical, medical device, and information technology industries. Advances in these fields are changing the landscape in which physicians practice and the way they interact with industry. In addition, the increased commercialization of health care services has led to new questions about the role of industry and its impact on health care delivery and patient care.

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has developed guidelines to help physicians navigate these changes and to ensure that their interactions with industry are ethical and in the best interests of patients. The guidelines provide principles and recommendations for physicians to consider when engaging in interactions with industry, including research collaborations, educational activities, and marketing interactions.

Recommendations for Physician Innovators

See also companion policy Guidelines for physicians in interactions with industry

Physician-researchers and innovators play a crucial role in medical advancement. As a result, they often engage in interactions with industry to support their work. These interactions can take many forms, from consulting and advisory board participation to research collaborations and product development. While these relationships can be beneficial, they also have the potential to raise ethical concerns.

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has developed recommendations for physician innovators to help them navigate these interactions in an ethical and transparent manner. The recommendations provide guidelines for managing conflicts of interest, disclosing financial relationships, and maintaining a high standard of care in research and patient care.

The CMA encourages all physicians to review these guidelines and recommendations to ensure they are up-to-date and to use them as a resource to guide their interactions with industry. By doing so, they can help ensure that their practices align with the highest standards of medical ethics and professionalism.
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy4459

POLICY TYPE  Policy endorsement
DATE  2021-08-21
TOPICS  Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents