MANAGEMENT OF PHYSICIAN FATIGUE

Policy

Excessive and prolonged work hours experienced by physicians are a major occupational challenge. Physicians often work in environments that are crisis-oriented, time pressured, and emotionally draining, all of which can contribute to physician stress and fatigue. Fatigue has a marked impact on physician well-being and has potential to affect patient care. Fatigue can contribute to medical errors. Physicians have limited opportunities to rest or recuperate and often find it difficult to balance their work and personal lives. The combination of these factors can lead to physician burnout, reduced job satisfaction, and a higher rate of physician turnover. In Canada, the practice of medicine is not insulated from the growing pressure to see more patients in less time and at no extra cost. This puts considerable pressure on physicians to continuously increase their productivity in terms of the number of patients they see. To meet these demands, physicians must often work longer hours. This may lead to exhaustion and burnout. Excessive work hours and work demands are not limited to physician training programs. Physicians in clinical practice also face significant work demands. Physicians in training programs often work in environments that are crisis-oriented, time pressured, and emotionally draining, all of which can contribute to physician stress and fatigue. Fatigue has a marked impact on physician well-being and has potential to affect patient care. Fatigue can contribute to medical errors. Physicians have limited opportunities to rest or recuperate and often find it difficult to balance their work and personal lives. The combination of these factors can lead to physician burnout, reduced job satisfaction, and a higher rate of physician turnover. In Canada, the practice of medicine is not insulated from the growing pressure to see more patients in less time and at no extra cost. This puts considerable pressure on physicians to continuously increase their productivity in terms of the number of patients they see. To meet these demands, physicians must often work longer hours. This may lead to exhaustion and burnout. Excessive work hours and work demands are not limited to physician training programs. Physicians in clinical practice also face significant work demands.

http://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11127

A new vision for Canada: family practice— the patient's medical home 2019

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
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

Documents
Operational principles for the measurement and management of wait lists (Update 2011)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10322

POLICY TYPE       Policy document
LAST REVIEWED    2019-03-03
DATE              2011-10-23
REPLACES          Operational principles for the measurement and management of waiting lists
TOPICS            Health systems, system funding and performance

Documents
Physician resource planning (updated 2015)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11533

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

LAST REVIEWED
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DATE
2015-05-30

REPLACES
Physician resource planning (Update 2003)

TOPICS
Health human resources

Documents
Principles for health system governance

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10320

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
LAST REVIEWED  2019-03-03
DATE  2011-10-23
REPLACES  Regionalization (Update 2001)
TOPICS  Health systems, system funding and performance

Documents