CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism articulates the ethical and professional obligations of medical practitioners in accordance with their duties to society and the medical profession. The principles and provisions of the Code are designed to promote the health and well-being of all Canadians, facilitate access to health care for all, and uphold the highest standards of professional behavior. The Code is intended to guide medical practitioners in their interactions with patients, other health care professionals, and the public, and to foster a culture of integrity, respect, and accountability within the medical profession.

A. VIRTUES ENDORSED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

1. **Integrity**
   - A virtuous physician endorses principles of honesty, trustworthiness, and loyalty in their professional and personal conduct. Integrity is achieved through adherence to ethical standards and commitment to the principles of the Code.

2. **Competence**
   - A virtuous physician possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to provide competent care. This includes a commitment to ongoing education and professional development.

3. **Humility**
   - A virtuous physician recognizes their own limitations and seeks to work collaboratively with other health care professionals to provide optimal care for patients.

4. **Humane**
   - A virtuous physician demonstrates compassion and empathy in their interactions with patients, recognizing the impact of their actions on patient outcomes and well-being.

5. **Respect**
   - A virtuous physician respects the dignity and autonomy of patients, ensuring that their rights and perspectives are considered in medical decision-making.

6. **Responsibility**
   - A virtuous physician takes responsibility for their actions, accountability for their professional conduct, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

7. **Confidentiality**
   - A virtuous physician maintains the confidentiality of patient information, respecting the privacy and personal rights of patients.

8. **Reconciliation**
   - A virtuous physician seeks to resolve conflicts and disputes in a fair and transparent manner, promoting mutual respect and understanding.

9. **Empathy**
   - A virtuous physician demonstrates empathy and understanding in interacting with patients, recognizing the emotional and psychological aspects of illness and treatment.

10. **Resilience**
    - A virtuous physician is resilient in the face of challenges, maintaining a positive and constructive approach to professional issues.

11. **Loyalty**
    - A virtuous physician demonstrates loyalty to patients, colleagues, and the medical profession, maintaining high standards of professional conduct.

These virtues serve as a foundation for the ethical and professional behavior expected of medical practitioners, guiding their interactions with patients, the public, and other members of the health care community.

The Code is intended to provide a framework for ethical decision-making and behavior, reflecting the core values and principles that underpin the medical profession. It is designed to promote the health and well-being of all Canadians, facilitate access to health care, and uphold the highest standards of professional behavior.
Management of physician fatigue

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

POLICY TYPE Policy document
LAST REVIEWED 2019-03-03
DATE 2014-05-24
TOPICS Health human resources
Study on Canada’s Health Workforce
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14469

**POLICY TYPE**  Parliamentary submission

**DATE**  2022-02-16

**TOPICS**  Health systems, system funding and performance
Health human resources
Ethics and medical professionalism

**Documents**

**Appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health:**

Study on Canada’s Health Workforce

Dr. Christine Smart
President of the Canadian Medical Association
February 16, 2022

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Charter of Shared Values: A vision for intra-professionalism for physicians

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13858

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
DATE  2017-12-09
REPLACES  CMA Charter for Physicians (Update 1999)
TOPICS  Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents

Physician health
PHYSICIAN HEALTH

BACKGROUND TO CMA POLICY

1. The state of mental and physical health

It is well established that physicians need to take care of themselves to maintain an energetic and productive practice. They need to balance the demands of their work and personal lives, and manage stress and burnout. This requires regular physical and mental health assessments, as well as timely interventions when needed.

2. The role of the physician in patient care

Physicians play a critical role in patient care, and their health and well-being can significantly impact patient outcomes. A healthy and well-rested physician is more likely to provide quality care, which can improve patient satisfaction and overall health outcomes.

3. The impact of physician health on the workplace

Poor physician health can contribute to increased absenteeism, decreased productivity, and higher turnover rates. It can also result in errors and patient harm, which can have legal and financial consequences for the workplace.

4. The role of the employer in supporting physician health

Employers have a responsibility to promote the health and well-being of their employees, including physicians. This can include providing resources and support for stress management, offering mental health services, and establishing policies that support work-life balance.

5. The need for research and education

Research is needed to better understand the factors that contribute to physician health and well-being, as well as effective interventions to improve these outcomes. Education and training programs should also be developed to raise awareness of the importance of physician health and provide tools and strategies for managing stress and burnout.

6. The role of the government in supporting physician health

Governments can play a significant role in supporting physician health by investing in research, education, and policies that promote workforce health and well-being. This can include initiatives to reduce work hours, improve work schedules, and provide resources for stress management.

7. The role of the patient in supporting physician health

Patients play a role in supporting physician health by understanding the importance of this issue and working with their physicians to ensure they receive the best possible care. This can include being open and honest about their own mental and physical health, and offering support and encouragement to their healthcare providers.

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
Physician Shielding During A Pandemic

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14386

Policy endorsement

2020-12-21

Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Protecting and supporting Canada’s health-care providers during COVID-19

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14260

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2020-03-23

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

Documents
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