CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism

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POLICY TYPE: Policy document

DATE: 2018-12-08

REPLACES: Code of ethics of the Canadian Medical Association (Update 2004)

TOPICS: Population health, health equity, public health

CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism articulates the values, principles and obligations of Canadian physicians as defined by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA). It is an instrument that guides the conduct of physicians in all situations in which they hold themselves out as practicing physicians. It is intended to provide a framework of ethical principles that can be applied to a wide range of situations. The Code is binding on all physicians who are members of the CMA and is intended to guide in the ethical practice of medicine.

Physicians should be guided by the ethical principles set out in the Code and they are expected to act in the professional responsibilities set out in it. Physicians should be aware of the important regulatory requirements that govern medical practice in their jurisdiction.

A. VIRTUES ENCOMPASSED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

1. Trust in the confidence it permits ethical relationships and avoids and controls of philosophical, legal, ethical, personal and professional relations, it permits the physician to be a trusted and respected professional who is able to influence the behaviour of patients, colleagues and the public.

2. Competence: The medical profession is committed to the belief that the physician is responsible for the health and well-being of the patient. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

3. Honesty: Honesty is a fundamental principle that governs the relationship between the physician and patient. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

4. Respect for Patient Autonomy: The physician is bound by a duty of respect for patient autonomy. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

5. Non-maleficence: The physician is bound by a duty to do no harm. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

6. Beneficence: The physician is bound by a duty to do good. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

7. Justice: The physician is bound by a duty to act justly. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

8. Privacy: The physician is bound by a duty to respect the privacy of the patient. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

9. Fidelity: The physician is bound by a duty of loyalty and trustworthiness. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

10. Justice: The physician is bound by a duty of justice. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

11. Respect for Patient Autonomy: The physician is bound by a duty of respect for patient autonomy. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

12. Non-maleficence: The physician is bound by a duty of non-maleficence. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

13. Beneficence: The physician is bound by a duty of beneficence. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

14. Justice: The physician is bound by a duty of justice. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

15. Privacy: The physician is bound by a duty of privacy. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

16. Fidelity: The physician is bound by a duty of fidelity. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

17. Ethical Standards: The physician is bound by a duty of ethical standards. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

18. Professionalism: The physician is bound by a duty of professionalism. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

19. Responsibility: The physician is bound by a duty of responsibility. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.

20. Integrity: The physician is bound by a duty of integrity. It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that the patient is informed and able to make an informed decision.
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. Kurkowska-Yamart
President of the Canadian Medical Association
February 15, 2022

Draft against measures
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

Physician health
PHYSICIAN HEALTH

BACKGROUND TO CMA POLICY

1. The role of patient-physician health

Physician health is a significant issue for public health and the profession. Chronic health conditions in physicians can lead to impaired judgment, reduced capacity to give advice for personal health, and increased risk of vulnerability to pressures from patients. The patient’s health is at risk if a physician’s health is not conducive to the provision of care. It is therefore important to consider the health of the patient-physician relationship.

2. The role of physician health

Physician health is essential for the provision of quality care to patients. A physician who is physically, mentally, or emotionally compromised may not be able to provide the best care for their patients. It is therefore important for physicians to take steps to ensure their own health and well-being.

3. The role of physician well-being

Physician well-being is a multifaceted concept that includes emotional, physical, and social well-being. It is important for physicians to prioritize their well-being in order to maintain their health and to provide the best care for their patients.

4. The role of patient-physician relationship

The patient-physician relationship is a crucial aspect of care. A physician who is not well is likely to have difficulty maintaining the quality of their care and may be less likely to provide the best care for their patients.

5. The role of physician mentoring

Mentoring is a key component of physician development. It is important for physicians to seek out mentors who can provide guidance and support as they develop their skills and knowledge.

6. The role of physician education

Education is a crucial aspect of physician development. It is important for physicians to continue to learn and develop their skills in order to provide the best care for their patients.

7. The role of physician support

Support is essential for the provision of quality care to patients. A physician who is not well is likely to have difficulty maintaining the quality of their care and may be less likely to provide the best care for their patients.

8. The role of physician autonomy

Autonomy is a key component of physician practice. It is important for physicians to have the freedom to practice medicine in a way that is consistent with their values and beliefs.

9. The role of physician legislation

Legislation is an important tool for the regulation of physician practice. It is important for physicians to be aware of the laws and regulations that govern their practice and to be able to comply with them.

10. The role of physician accountability

Accountability is a key component of physician practice. It is important for physicians to be accountable for their actions and to be able to demonstrate that they are providing the best care for their patients.

11. The role of physician research

Research is an important aspect of physician development. It is important for physicians to be able to conduct research in order to improve the quality of care and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their field.

12. The role of physician service

Service is an important aspect of physician practice. It is important for physicians to be able to provide care to their patients in a timely and efficient manner.

13. The role of physician licensure

Licensure is an important aspect of physician practice. It is important for physicians to be able to practice medicine in a way that is consistent with the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which they are licensed.

14. The role of physician regulation

Regulation is an important aspect of physician practice. It is important for physicians to be able to regulate their practice in a way that is consistent with the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which they are licensed.

15. The role of physician education

Education is an important aspect of physician practice. It is important for physicians to be able to continue their education in order to improve the quality of care and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their field.

16. The role of physician research

Research is an important aspect of physician practice. It is important for physicians to be able to conduct research in order to improve the quality of care and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their field.
Physician Shielding During A Pandemic
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14386

POLICY TYPE
Policy endorsement

DATE
2020-12-21

TOPICS
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