Physician health
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13739

POLICY TYPE      Policy document
DATE             2017-10-21
REPLACES         PD98-04 Physician health and well-being
TOPICS           Health human resources
                  Ethics and medical professionalism

Documents
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A greater understanding of patient health

Patient health is holistic, encompassing significant quality of life in the patient's physical, mental, spiritual and community well-being. It requires an understanding of the biological, psychological and social factors that influence health, as well as a recognition of the impact of health care quality on health outcomes. This understanding can inform decision-making to promote the health of patients, families, communities and populations, as well as the health care system.

Physician health as a quality indicator

The health of physicians can significantly affect the quality of patient care. Physicians who are physically and emotionally well are better able to provide high-quality care, which can improve patient outcomes and satisfaction. Policies and practices aimed at promoting the health of physicians are essential for maintaining the quality and safety of health care delivery.

Physician wellness as a shared responsibility

Physician wellness is a shared responsibility, with physicians, institutions, educators, colleagues, and patients all playing a role in supporting the well-being of physicians. By recognizing the importance of physician health and well-being, we can work together to create a supportive and sustainable environment for health care professionals.
CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism articulates the ethical and professional standards and responsibilities of the medical profession. The Code sets out standards of ethical practice and guidelines for professional conduct. It is a living document that evolves over time, reflecting the changing priorities and concerns of medicine. The Code is intended to provide guidance for physicians in making decisions that affect patient care and the public's health.

In the Code, ethical practice is understood as a process of ethical reflection and decision-making that goes beyond mere compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The Code is not a set of rules that can be applied mechanically, but a framework for thoughtful and principled decision-making.

The Code is structured around five core values: respect, responsibility, integrity, empathy, and accountability. These values are reflected in the principles and standards that guide ethical practice.

Physicians should apply the principles and requirements of the Code when making decisions about patient care and when representing the medical profession.

A. RESPECT

1. The right to be treated with dignity, compassion and respect, and to be given information. Physicians have a responsibility to respect the patient's autonomy and to provide the best possible care.

B. RESPONSIBILITY

2. Physicians have a responsibility to the public, to society and to the profession. They must act in the best interests of patients and the public, and they must be accountable for their actions.

C. INTEGRITY

3. Physicians must be honest, fair, just, and trustworthy. They must act with integrity in all their professional relationships.

D. EMPATHY

4. Physicians must be compassionate and caring. They must be able to understand and empathize with the patient's experience.

E. ACCOUNTABILITY

5. Physicians must be accountable for their actions. They must be prepared to justify their decisions and to learn from their mistakes.

The Code is intended to provide guidance for physicians in making decisions that affect patient care and the public's health.
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
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
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
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
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. Cairine Smart
President of the Canadian Medical Association
February 15, 2022
Deepest regrets