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**

![Charter of Shared Values](https://policybase.cma.ca/images/charter.jpg)

**Physician health**
PHYSICIAN HEALTH

INTRODUCTION

The role of physician health encompasses the prevention and treatment of illness, injury or other physical, mental or social conditions that limit a physician's ability to function or perform to the expected level of professional care. It includes all measures necessary to maintain and improve a physician's health and well-being, including education, research, and intervention at multiple levels. This policy addresses the issues of physician health and well-being.

BACKGROUND TO CMA POLICY

1. The state of current and physician health

Ironically, the role of physician health has been largely unacknowledged. In many countries, the health of physicians has been ignored or relegated to the background, leading to increased medical errors, decreased patient safety, and reduced professional satisfaction. The rapid pace of medicine, combined with the increasing demands of the healthcare system, has created a significant burden on physicians' health and well-being. It is crucial to address these challenges to ensure the provision of high-quality care to patients.

2. The CMA's role in promoting physician health

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has a long-standing commitment to the health and well-being of its members. The CMA's policies and practices aim to support the health and well-being of physicians, including promoting a healthy work environment, ensuring access to necessary healthcare services, and advocating for policies that improve the health and well-being of physicians.
CMA STATEMENT ON PHYSICIAN HEALTH AND WELLNESS
Guiding Principles and Commitments for a Shared Focus

What it is
Physician health is a complex multifaceted construct that navigates the various aspects of an individual’s life, including personal, professional, and social well-being. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recognizes the importance of physician health and has developed a comprehensive framework to guide its work towards promoting and supporting the health and wellness of physicians.

What it means
Understanding physician health requires a holistic approach that considers factors such as work-life balance, mental health, physical health, financial stability, and social support. By focusing on these areas, the CMA aims to create a supportive environment that fosters the well-being of physicians, ultimately enhancing their capacity to provide high-quality care to patients.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A greater understanding of physician health

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Physician health as a shared responsibility

It is a responsibility of the medical profession, as defined by the CMA, to lead and work in partnership with other health professionals and stakeholders to create a culture of health and wellness for physicians.

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