CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13937

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Documents

CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The Code of Ethics of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) articulates the fundamental principles of professionalism and ethical conduct that guide the actions of physicians in Canada. This document serves as a guide to assist physicians in making ethical decisions, emphasizing the importance of integrity, respect, and accountability. It outlines the responsibilities of physicians to their patients, their colleagues, and society as a whole.

In the CMA Code of Ethics, the ethical principles are presented in a clear and concise manner, providing guidance on how physicians should act in various situations. The Code is intended to promote the highest standards of professional conduct and to ensure that physicians uphold the trust placed in them by their patients, colleagues, and the public.

The Code of Ethics addresses a wide range of issues, including but not limited to, confidentiality, consent, and the use of medical information. It also discusses the role of physicians in public health and the importance of collaboration with other healthcare professionals.

The CMA Code of Ethics is reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of the healthcare profession. The Code is intended to guide physicians in making ethical decisions and to reinforce the values that are central to the practice of medicine.

This document provides a comprehensive framework for physicians to consider in making ethical decisions. It is designed to be a living document, reflecting the ongoing dialogue between the CMA and the broader community on issues of ethics.

A. VIRTUES DEMONSTRATED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

1. Competence
2. Integrity
3. Accountability
4. Humility
5. Self-awareness

These virtues are essential for the ethical practice of medicine. They are shared by all members of the profession and serve as the foundation for ethical decision-making. The Code of Ethics provides guidance on how to uphold these virtues in practice.

The Code of Ethics is binding on all members of the CMA and is intended to be interpreted in the context of the ethical principles outlined in this document. It is a tool for promoting the highest standards of professional conduct and for ensuring that physicians fulfill their obligations to patients, colleagues, and society.

The CMA Code of Ethics is reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of the healthcare profession. It is a living document, reflecting the ongoing dialogue between the CMA and the broader community on issues of ethics.

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CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

A VIRTUES EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

Compassion
A compassionate physician recognizes suffering and responds to suffering with a desire to ameliorate it, to comfort and to alleviate its effects.

Honesty
A physician’s actions are straightforward and honest, truthful, and in accord with the principles of justice and the law. They are guided by a sense of duty and a commitment to the patient’s best interests.

Integrity
Integrity is not just adherence to ethical principles, but also the maintenance of a commitment to right action, even when the environment is stressful or even hostile. It involves the willingness to make personal sacrifices when necessary.

Prudence
A physician uses prudence and sound judgment, and is alert to potential threats to patient care, making adjustments in treatment when necessary. This involves the ability to prioritize and make decisions in complex situations.