Appropriateness in health care
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CMA POLICY

Appropriateness in Health Care

Summary

This policy discusses the concept of appropriateness in health care and advocates for proactive approaches to the problem.

Recommendations

- Policy makers, nursing leaders, and clinicians should focus on implementation of programs designed to ensure the provision of appropriate care.
- Patients and health care providers should be educated to understand the importance of appropriateness in health care.
- The role of the physician in ensuring appropriate care should be emphasized.

Introductions

In health care settings, the concept of appropriateness of care refers to the use of health care services that are effective and cost-effective, and that are delivered in a timely manner.

Policy

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) endorses the following principles as the basis for a policy on appropriateness in health care:

- The provision of health care services should be based on the best available evidence and should be tailored to the individual needs of the patient.
- The use of health care resources should be balanced to ensure that they are used efficiently and effectively.
- The patient’s preferences and values should be considered in the decision-making process.

References


Authorized by the CMA Council as of June 6, 2014, with subsequent amendments.