Appropriateness in health care
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Appropriateness in Health Care

Summary

The appropriateness of health care services and treatments is a matter of concern for patients, providers, and the public. Appropriate care is essential to ensure the best outcomes for patients and to optimize the use of health care resources. Appropriateness can be defined as providing care that is consistent with established guidelines and best practices, and that is tailored to the individual patient's needs. Inappropriate care may lead to unnecessary costs, adverse outcomes, and patient dissatisfaction.

Recommendations

1. Develop comprehensive guidelines for appropriate care for all major health conditions and procedures.
2. Establish criteria for the evaluation of appropriateness of care, which may include the effectiveness, safety, and cost-effectiveness of interventions.
3. Implement systems for measuring and reporting the appropriateness of care, including the development of appropriateness indicators and the use of feedback to improve care delivery.
4. Foster a culture of quality and safety within health care organizations, which includes education and training for health care providers.
5. Engage patients and their families in decision-making processes related to their care, which can help ensure that care is appropriate and patient-centered.

Introduction

In health care systems, the provision of appropriate care is essential to ensure optimal outcomes for patients and efficient use of resources. The concept of appropriateness is complex and requires consideration of various factors, including the effectiveness of interventions, patient outcomes, costs, and patient preferences. The appropriateness of care can vary depending on the individual patient's needs and circumstances.

Policy

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recommends that health care providers and organizations:

1. Develop and implement evidence-based guidelines for the appropriate provision of health care services and interventions.
2. Establish criteria for evaluating the appropriateness of care and monitor adherence to these criteria.
3. Promote and encourage the use of appropriate care through education and training of health care providers.
4. Engage patients and their families in discussions about the appropriateness of their care, ensuring that their preferences and values are considered.
5. Monitor and report on the appropriateness of care provided, using indicators to measure performance and identify areas for improvement.

Conclusion

Appropriate care is a cornerstone of quality health care. By ensuring that care is consistent with best practices, tailored to individual patient needs, and delivered in a timely and efficient manner, health care systems can improve outcomes and optimize resource utilization. The continued development and implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based guidelines and strategies for measuring and improving appropriateness of care is essential to achieving these goals.