Principles for the protection of patient privacy

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13833

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2017-12-09

REPLACES
PD11-03 Principles for the Protection of Patients’ Personal Health Information

TOPICS
Health information and e-health
Ethics and medical professionalism

CMA Policy

PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROTECTION OF PATIENT PRIVACY

See also: Background to CMA Policy on Principles for the Protection of Patient Privacy

RATIONALE

Health information and e-health are powerful tools that enable health professionals, as well as the health system, to provide individualized care and optimize health outcomes. However, they also raise concerns for patient privacy and raise questions about appropriate use of personal health information. The principles for the protection of patient privacy (Policy 11-03) have been reviewed and revised. The revised policy is intended to ensure that the protection of patient privacy is maintained in an era of rapidly evolving technologies and practices. It clarifies and builds on the principles of privacy previously outlined in Policy 11-03.

In particular, the revised policy recognizes the increasingly complex nature of health information and e-health, and the challenges they present for the protection of patient privacy. The policy provides guidance on how to ensure that personal health information is used appropriately, and that patient privacy is respected. It also addresses the challenges of protecting patient privacy in the era of e-health, where health information is more easily accessible and where patient expectations and preferences may vary.

The revised policy includes several key principles:

1. Honesty: Health professionals and institutions must be honest and transparent about their use of patient information.
2. Consent: Informed consent must be obtained before any personal health information is collected, used, or disclosed.
3. Confidentiality: Personal health information must be protected from unauthorized access and use.
4. Accountability: Health professionals and institutions must be accountable for their use of patient information.
5. Security: Personal health information must be protected from unauthorized access and use.

The policy also addresses the growing use of e-health technologies, and provides guidance on how to ensure that patient privacy is respected in this context. It recognizes that e-health technologies can provide significant benefits to patients, but also raise concerns for patient privacy.

In conclusion, the revised policy provides a comprehensive framework for the protection of patient privacy, and addresses the challenges of protecting patient privacy in the era of e-health. It is intended to ensure that health professionals and institutions respect patient privacy, and to enable patients to make informed decisions about their health information.

SCORE OF POLICY

5

CMA Policy

BACKGROUND TO CMA POLICY

See also: CMA Policy on Principles for the Protection of Patient Privacy

Context

The evolution of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has revolutionized the way we live and work. The increasing use of ICTs in the health sector has led to the emergence of e-health, which has the potential to improve patient outcomes, reduce costs, and enhance the efficiency of health systems.

However, the use of ICTs also raises significant privacy and security concerns for patients. Patient information is often stored in digital formats, and is susceptible to unauthorized access, misuse, and theft. This raises concerns about the protection of patient privacy, and the appropriate use of personal health information.

The policy presents the revised principles for the protection of patient privacy, which are intended to address these concerns. It clarifies and builds on the principles of privacy previously outlined in Policy 11-03, and provides guidance on how to ensure that personal health information is used appropriately, and that patient privacy is respected.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The revised policy recognizes the importance of respecting the privacy and confidentiality of patient information. It provides guidance on how to ensure that personal health information is used appropriately, and that patient privacy is respected. It also addresses the challenges of protecting patient privacy in the era of e-health, where health information is more easily accessible and where patient expectations and preferences may vary.

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