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

Documents

CMA POLICY

PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROTECTION OF PATIENT PRIVACY
See also Background to CMA Policy for the Protection of Patient Privacy

PRACTICE POLICY

The importance of patient privacy is a fundamental principle of medical ethics and a core value that the patient physician relationship is centered upon. The right to privacy forms the backdrop of any professional practice, whether in the realms of medicine, dentistry, nursing, optometry, pharmacy or any other health-related profession. The right to privacy is grounded in the ethical principles of respect for autonomy, confidentiality, non-maleficence and beneficence.

In the context of the changing technology and the increase in the amount of personal health information available to healthcare providers, it is essential that policies and procedures are in place to ensure the confidentiality of patient health information.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to all health services that involve the protection of patient privacy.

BACKGROUND TO CMA POLICY

PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROTECTION OF PATIENT PRIVACY
See also CMA Policy on Rights and Responsibilities of Patient Privacy

Context

The context of information technology, the expansion of mobile health care, and the increasing use of electronic health records within the health care system, have created new challenges in managing the risks associated with the protection of patient privacy. The increased use of technology has led to new threats to the confidentiality of patient information. The increasing reliance on electronic health records, telemedicine, and remote monitoring devices raises concerns about the privacy and security of sensitive health information.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The expansion of technology has led to new ethical concerns related to the protection of patient privacy. The ethics of technology are complex and require careful consideration. The protection of patient privacy is an ongoing challenge in the era of information technology. The principles of privacy and confidentiality are central to the ethical practice of medicine and must be respected at all times.

This policy sets out the principles for the protection of patient privacy and confidentiality. It addresses the responsibilities of healthcare providers, including physicians, in protecting the confidentiality of patient information.

This policy applies to all health services that involve the protection of patient privacy.