CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism

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POLICY TYPE
Policy document

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REPLACES
Code of ethics of the Canadian Medical Association (Update 2004)

TOPICS
Population health, health equity, public health

A. VIRTUES EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

1. Truth
2. Integrity
3. Justice
4. Humanity
5. Prudence
# CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The CMA code of ethics and professionalism is the guiding principle for medical professionals in Canada. It outlines the responsibilities and expectations of physicians in their roles as healers, teachers, and researchers. The code is designed to promote ethical conduct, maintain public trust, and ensure the highest standards of care for patients.

## A. VIRTUES EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virtue</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compassion</td>
<td>A commitment to recognize and respond to the suffering of others, with a sense of empathy and a desire to alleviate their distress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honesty</td>
<td>A commitment to truthfulness, integrity, and transparency, both in the provision of care and in the conduct of professional relationships.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>A commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct, integrity, and respect for the rights and dignity of patients.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>A commitment to continuous learning, professional development, and the maintenance of current knowledge and skills in one's specialty.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accountability</td>
<td>A commitment to taking responsibility for one's own actions and decisions, and to being answerable for the outcomes of one's professional practice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These virtues are integral to the ethical practice of medicine and are essential to the maintenance of public trust in the profession.