CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism

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

TOPICS
Population health, health equity, public health

CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The Code of Ethics of the Canadian Medical Association articulates the fundamental obligations of physicians to the public, to patients and to each other in professional relations. Its standards apply to all physicians, regardless of specialty or location of practice, and endeavor to promote high ethical ideals in medical practice.

In the Code of Ethics, Canadian physicians are called upon to seek the best possible treatment for their patients, to respect the patient’s autonomy, to protect the patient’s confidentiality and to provide care that is free from discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, ability, age, social status, or geographic location. Physicians are also expected to treat all patients with dignity and respect.

A physician should maintain a professional relationship with a patient in order to provide the best possible care. Such a relationship is characterized by mutual trust and respect, and is based on the patient’s right to receive information about the physician’s role in providing care, the nature of the patient’s illness, and the potential outcomes of treatment.

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A. VIRTUES EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

Compassion
In response to St Paul, the physician's vocation is to do good to all in every situation, even to a non-patient, and to do them wounding in their understanding.

Honesty
In response to St Paul, the physician's vocation is to do good to all in every situation, even to a non-patient, and to do them wounding in their understanding.

Humility
In response to St Paul, the physician's vocation is to do good to all in every situation, even to a non-patient, and to do them wounding in their understanding.

Integrity
In response to St Paul, the physician's vocation is to do good to all in every situation, even to a non-patient, and to do them wounding in their understanding.

Prudence
In response to St Paul, the physician's vocation is to do good to all in every situation, even to a non-patient, and to do them wounding in their understanding.