CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13937

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

Documents
CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The CMA Code of Ethics provides a framework for medical professionals to maintain ethical and professional conduct in their practice. It sets out principles and standards that guide the actions of physicians, ensuring that they act in the best interests of their patients, society, and their profession. The Code is based on principles of respect, responsibility, and integrity, and it is designed to uphold the public's trust in the integrity of the medical profession.

A. VIRTUES EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virtue</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compassion</td>
<td>Requires empathy, understanding, and respect for patients' needs. It involves being non-judgmental and supportive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honesty</td>
<td>Requires truthful, honest, and open communication with patients. It involves avoiding deception, omissions, and misrepresentations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>Requires adherence to the highest ethical and professional standards. It involves being truthful, reliable, and just.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accountability</td>
<td>Requires accountability for one's own actions and decisions. It involves taking responsibility for one's professional conduct.</td>
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These virtues are essential for maintaining the trust of patients and society, and for upholding the public's confidence in the integrity of the medical profession.