CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism articulates the ethical and professional responsibilities of physicians. It is a statement of principles and standards that guide the ethical conduct of physicians in all aspects of their practice. The Code is intended to promote the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct among physicians and to provide guidance to physicians in resolving ethical dilemmas that may arise in their practice.

1. RESPONSIBILITY

Physicians are responsible for providing medical care to the extent of their education, training and ability. They are accountable for their decisions and actions.

2. PATIENTS

Physicians have a duty to provide care to all patients in a manner that is respectful, compassionate, and non-discriminatory. They are expected to maintain patient confidentiality and respect patient autonomy.

3. ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

Physicians are expected to make ethical decisions in a manner that is fair, just, and consistent with the best interests of their patients. They should seek guidance from professional bodies when faced with ethical dilemmas.

4. PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

Physicians are expected to provide care that is patient-centered, responsive to the needs of their patients, and respectful of their preferences and values.

5. PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

Physicians are expected to maintain their professional competence and to provide care that is consistent with the standards of their profession.

6. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Physicians are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the highest standards of professional conduct. They are expected to avoid behavior that is unprofessional or that may harm their patients or the public.

7. PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Physicians are expected to maintain professional relationships that are respectful, ethical, and consistent with the highest standards of professional conduct.

8. PROFESSIONAL INFLUENCE

Physicians are expected to influence public policy and professional standards in a manner that is consistent with the best interests of their patients and the public.

9. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Physicians are expected to fulfill their professional responsibilities in a manner that is consistent with the best interests of their patients and the public.

A. VIRTUES EMBRACED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

1. Integrity

Physicians are expected to act with integrity and to promote the best interests of their patients. They are expected to be honest, truthful, and fair in their dealings with patients, colleagues, and the public.

2. Respect

Physicians are expected to respect the dignity and worth of all individuals. They are expected to treat all patients with respect and to avoid discrimination in their practice.

3. Competence

Physicians are expected to maintain their competence and to provide care that is consistent with the standards of their profession.

4. Compassion

Physicians are expected to exhibit compassion and empathy in their dealings with patients and to provide care that is responsive to the needs of their patients.

5. Honesty

Physicians are expected to be honest and truthful in all aspects of their practice, including their dealings with patients, colleagues, and the public.

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# CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism

The Code of Ethics and Professionalism sets out the professional and ethical responsibilities of physicians and the standards of conduct that guide their practice. It is intended to promote ethical behavior, ensure the protection of patients and the public, and foster a culture of integrity and professionalism within the medical profession. The Code is based on the principles of respect, integrity, and accountability, and it is designed to be clear, practical, and adaptable to the changing needs of the profession.

## A. Virtues Exemplified by the Ethical Physician

- **Compassion**
- **Foresight**
- **Humility**
- **Integrity**
- **Perseverance**
- **Statesmanship**

These virtues are not only important for individual competence but also for the collective well-being of society. They guide physicians in their practice and serve as a foundation for ethical decision-making.

- **Compassion**
  - Archaeological evidence suggests that the earliest medical practitioners had a moral and ethical basis for their actions. This compassion is based on understanding the patient's condition and treating them with care and respect.

- **Foresight**
  - Physicians must be able to anticipate future medical needs and be prepared to meet them. This foresight is crucial in preventive medicine and in preparing for future challenges.

- **Humility**
  - Physicians must recognize their limitations and seek to advance their knowledge through ongoing education and professional development.

- **Integrity**
  - Physicians must act with integrity in all aspects of their practice, ensuring that their actions are guided by ethical principles and are consistent with the best interests of their patients.

- **Perseverance**
  - The pursuit of excellence in medical practice requires persistence and dedication. Physicians must be willing to work diligently and creatively to improve patient care.

- **Statesmanship**
  - The role of the physician extends beyond the patient-physician relationship. Statesmanship involves the ability to speak on behalf of the profession and to influence public policy in ways that promote the health and well-being of the community.

These virtues are essential for maintaining the trust that the public has placed in the medical profession. By adhering to these principles, physicians can ensure that their actions are guided by ethical considerations and that the best interests of their patients are served.