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

CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism articulates the ethical and professional standards expected of physicians and sets the framework for the ethical conduct of the medical profession in Canada.

A. VIRTUES ENCOMPASSED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

1. Integrity is the foundation of the physician-patient relationship and should be a principle of practice. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of personal integrity, to act with honesty, to be truthful in words and actions, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

2. Competence is the hallmark of the ethical physician. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of professional competence, to act with prudence, to be knowledgeable in the fields of medicine and surgery, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

3. Diligence is the hallmark of the ethical physician. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of professional diligence, to act with prudence, to be knowledgeable in the fields of medicine and surgery, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

4. Prudence is the hallmark of the ethical physician. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of professional prudence, to act with prudence, to be knowledgeable in the fields of medicine and surgery, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

5. Fairness is the hallmark of the ethical physician. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of professional fairness, to act with prudence, to be knowledgeable in the fields of medicine and surgery, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

6. Honesty is the hallmark of the ethical physician. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of professional honesty, to act with prudence, to be knowledgeable in the fields of medicine and surgery, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

7. Responsibility is the hallmark of the ethical physician. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of professional responsibility, to act with prudence, to be knowledgeable in the fields of medicine and surgery, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

8. Justice is the hallmark of the ethical physician. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of professional justice, to act with prudence, to be knowledgeable in the fields of medicine and surgery, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

9. Honesty is the hallmark of the ethical physician. It is the physician’s duty to maintain a high degree of professional honesty, to act with prudence, to be knowledgeable in the fields of medicine and surgery, and to be accountable for one’s professional conduct.

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A. VIRTUES EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ETHICAL PHYSICIAN

- Compassion: This virtue is exemplified by the physician who exercises kindness, empathy and understanding in all interactions with patients.
- Integrity: This virtue is exemplified by the physician who adheres to the highest standards of ethical conduct, professional responsibility, and accountability to the public, with a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Professionalism: This virtue is exemplified by the physician who exemplifies a personal and professional commitment to the highest standards of medical care, patient advocacy, and the betterment of the health of the public.