CMA Code of Ethics and Professionalism

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

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Population health, health equity, public health

Documents

CMA CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The Code of Ethics and Professionalism articulates the fundamental principles and values that guide the practice of medicine and serves as a reference guide for the ethical and professional conduct of physicians. The Code is intended to provide guidance to physicians on their duties to patients and the public, and to inform the public about the ethical standards expected of physicians.

1. Virtues Enshrined by the Ethical Physician

   A. Virtues Enshrined by the Ethical Physician

      1. Trust: The foundation of the physician-patient relationship and a vital component of professionalism. Trust in the physician is essential for the patient to feel comfortable disclosing sensitive information and seeking advice from the physician.

      2. Competence: Professionalism requires a high level of technical and clinical competence, which includes staying updated with the latest medical knowledge and skills.

      3. Goodwill: Physicians should act in the best interest of their patients, even if it may not be in their own personal interest, by prioritizing the patient's well-being over their own.

      4. Honesty: Honesty is fundamental to the trust between the physician and patient. Physicians must be truthful and transparent in all their interactions with patients.

      5. Justice: Fairness and equity are essential in healthcare, and physicians should strive to provide access to healthcare services based on need and ability to pay, not on social or economic status.

      6. Integrity: Physicians must uphold the highest ethical standards, including confidentiality, respect for patient autonomy, and non-maleficence.

      7. Accountability: Physicians are responsible for their actions and decisions, and they must accept responsibility for the consequences of their conduct.

      8. Respect: Respect for patients is a cornerstone of professionalism. Physicians should treat all patients with dignity and respect, regardless of their background, culture, or socioeconomic status.

      9. Non-maleficence: Physicians have a duty to do no harm and to promote the health and well-being of their patients.

      10. Autonomy:尊重患者的自主权，包括知情同意和自我决定的权利。

      11. Beneficence: Physicians should act in the best interests of their patients, taking into account all relevant factors to make decisions that are in the patient's best interest.

      12. Distributive justice: Physicians should contribute to the equitable distribution of healthcare resources, ensuring that all patients have access to appropriate care.

      13. Caring: Physicians should demonstrate compassion and empathy towards their patients, recognizing the emotional distress that can accompany illness and hospitalization.

      14. Professionalism: Professionalism is a set of values, behaviors, and attitudes that define the profession of medicine, including a commitment to continuous learning, self-regulation, and ethical decision-making.

      15. Social responsibility: Physicians have a duty to participate in the broader social and ethical issues that affect public health and healthcare systems.
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 the physician to recognize, advocate for, and act in the best interests of the patient, taking into account the patient's wishes and values.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honesty</td>
<td>Requires the physician to be truthful and transparent in all interactions with patients, other health care providers, and the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honoring Trust</td>
<td>Requires the physician to respect the autonomy and self-determination of patients.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sympathy</td>
<td>Requires the physician to be empathetic and caring towards patients.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>Requires the physician to act fairly and equitably in all interactions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prudence</td>
<td>Requires the physician to be prudent in all actions, balancing risks and benefits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respectful Communication</td>
<td>Requires the physician to communicate in a way that promotes understanding and respect.</td>
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The above virtues are essential for maintaining a high standard of medical practice and ensuring the welfare of patients.