Organ and tissue donation and transplantation

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14126

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

DATE
2019-12-07

REPLACES
Organ and tissue donation and transplantation (update 2015)

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism
Health care and patient safety

BACKGROUND TO CMA POLICY

See the CMA's position on organ donation and transplantation.

Context
Organ and tissue donation and transplantation (OTDT) pose many important questions for patients, their families, health care providers, and organizations. The complexity and gravity of OTDT issues can be daunting, and they require ethical consideration and appropriate mechanisms for decision-making. In this context, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) advocates for policies that support a framework for OTDT that respects patient autonomy and ethical principles.

The CMA has a longstanding interest in matters pertaining to OTDT. In 1989, the CMA released a position paper titled "Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: A Framework for Decision Making," which addressed ethical and policy considerations. The paper, which was subsequently updated in 1996, 2006, and 2015, provided guidance on the roles of physicians, patients, and families in the decision-making process.

Since its initial release, the CMA has continued to advocate for policies that support OTDT, recognizing the critical role of health care providers in promoting patient autonomy and ethical decision-making. In 2019, the CMA released an updated policy on organ and tissue donation and transplantation, reflecting ongoing developments in this field.

The updated policy reaffirms the CMA's commitment to supporting policies that promote patient autonomy and ethical decision-making in OTDT. The policy emphasizes the importance of collaboration among health care providers, patients, families, and relevant stakeholders in ensuring that OTDT decisions are made in a manner that respects patient autonomy and ethical principles.

The policy also highlights the ongoing need for research and education on OTDT, including the development of best practices and guidelines for decision-making. The CMA encourages health care providers to continue to engage with patients, families, and relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process, ensuring that OTDT decisions are made in a manner that respects patient autonomy and ethical principles.

The CMA policy on organ and tissue donation and transplantation is available for download at the following link: [CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association]

See the CMA's position on organ donation and transplantation.