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POLICY TYPE
Policy endorsement

DATE
2021-06-24

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents

INCREASE ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL TOOLS FOR SUPPORTING PRACTITIONERS IN MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH SUBSTANCE USE

INTRODUCTION

Understanding the spectrum of patients using substances and supporting their ability to achieve their treatment goals is an essential component of primary care. Providing this support requires a relationship of trust and a shared understanding of the patient's goals, as well as the potential benefits and risks associated with their use of substances. This policy addresses the decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use in the context of public health and harm reduction strategies.

SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

The CMA supports the decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use in a manner that promotes health equity and public health. The policy endorses harm reduction strategies, including the provision of safe injection sites, access to naloxone, and support for mental health and social well-being.

This policy is based on research and evidence from international and Canadian jurisdictions, as well as the Canadian Medical Association's principles of care and professional standards.

SUMMARY

The decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use is a necessary step in the broader strategy for addressing substance use disorders and promoting health equity. This policy advocates for a comprehensive approach that includes harm reduction, support for mental health, and equitable access to care.

KEY POINTS

- The decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use is a necessary step in addressing substance use disorders.
- Harm reduction strategies, including access to naloxone and safe injection sites, are essential.
- Support for mental health and social well-being is crucial.
- Equitable access to care is necessary.

CONCLUSION

The CMA supports the decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use in the context of a comprehensive approach that promotes health equity. This includes harm reduction strategies, support for mental health, and equitable access to care.