Guidelines for physicians in interactions with industry / Recommendations for physician innovators

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Guidelines for physicians in interactions with industry

See also companion policy Recommendations for physician innovators.

Recommendations for physician innovators to describe their involvement in research or development projects to improve patient outcomes or to introduce new products or services in a manner that is consistent with the Canadian Medical Association's (CMA) Code of Ethics and the principles of medical professionalism, including a duty of trust to patients and a duty to society.

The CMA values the contributions of innovative medical research and development. However, the CMA is concerned about the potential for conflicts of interest when physicians, either individually or through their educational institutions or other organizations, participate in research or development projects that may impact patient care. To ensure the independence of research and development processes and to maintain the integrity of the health system, guidelines are needed to help physicians navigate these situations.

The CMA recommends that physicians:

1. Disclose to their patients and relevant parties the nature and extent of any conflicts of interest related to research or development projects they are involved in.
2. Avoid any financial interests that may influence their decisions or recommendations related to patient care.
3. Seek independent advice on ethical and conflict of interest issues before engaging in research or development projects.
4. Engage with relevant stakeholders to ensure that research and development activities are conducted in the best interests of patients.
5. Regularly update their knowledge and understanding of ethical and conflict of interest issues in their field of practice.

The CMA encourages the development of guidelines that can help physicians navigate these situations and promote the public's trust in the medical profession.

Recommendations for Physician Innovators

See also companion policy Guidelines for physicians in interactions with industry.

Physicians as innovators play a critical role in advancing medical knowledge and improving patient care. However, there is a risk of potential conflicts of interest when physicians participate in research or development projects that may impact patient care. To ensure the independence of research and development processes and to maintain the integrity of the health system, guidelines are needed to help physicians navigate these situations.

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