Principles concerning physician information

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Principles concerning physician information

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is committed to ensuring that medical information is managed in a manner that respects the privacy of individuals and protects their personal information. The CMA recognizes the importance of maintaining the confidentiality and security of personal information in the medical records of patients, including electronic records. The CMA also supports the principles outlined in the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) and the Health Information Protection Act (HIPA).

The CMA supports the following principles concerning physician information:

1. The principle of consent: Patients should be informed of the purpose for which their personal information is to be used and should provide consent in writing before the information is used for purposes other than those for which it was originally collected.

2. The principle of access: Patients should have the right to access their personal information and to request corrections or amendments of inaccurate or outdated information.

3. The principle of security: Personal information should be protected against unauthorized access, use, disclosure, or disposal.

4. The principle of accountability: Responsible individuals and organizations should be accountable for the management of personal information in a manner consistent with the principles outlined in this policy.

The CMA encourages physicians and their organizations to adopt and implement these principles in the management of medical information and to continue to review and adapt these principles as necessary to ensure the protection of patient privacy and the confidentiality of personal information.