Flexibility in Medical Training (Update 2009)
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Flexibility in Medical Training
(Update 2009)

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recognizes the importance of flexibility in medical training. This policy was developed to provide guidance to medical schools and residency programs in designing training programs that meet the needs of individual learners while ensuring the quality of medical education. The policy aims to promote the development of a diverse and inclusive educational environment that fosters excellence in patient care and research.

The CMA welcomes an array of educational strategies that promote flexibility in medical training. Key elements include:

1. Individualized Learning Paths: Medical schools and residency programs should offer individualized learning paths that accommodate the diverse needs and aspirations of students.
2. Continual Assessment: Throughout their training, residents should be evaluated regularly to ensure that they are meeting the necessary standards of competence.
3. Access to Resources: Medical schools should provide access to a wide range of educational resources, including up-to-date technologies and simulation tools.
4. Mentorship and Support: Residents should have access to experienced and supportive mentors who can guide them through their training.
5. Flexibility in Training Hours: Training programs should consider flexible schedules to accommodate personal and professional commitments.

Definitions
- **Individualized Learning Paths**: An educational strategy that allows students to design their own learning experiences based on their interests and career goals.
- **Continual Assessment**: A process of ongoing evaluation and feedback that helps identify areas for improvement and supports learners in achieving their professional objectives.
- **Access to Resources**: The availability of educational materials and tools that enhance the learning experience and support the development of professional skills.
- **Mentorship and Support**: The provision of guidance and support from experienced professionals to help residents navigate their training and career development.
- **Flexibility in Training Hours**: The ability to adjust training schedules to accommodate personal and professional needs.

The CMA supports the integration of these strategies to promote flexibility in medical training, thereby enhancing the quality of medical education and ensuring that future physicians are well-prepared to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.