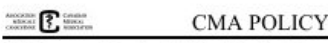


# Policy Summary: Managing the Public-Private Interface to Improve Access to Quality Health Care

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy8826>

POLICY TYPE	Policy document
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## Documents



**Policy Summary: Managing the Public-Private Interface to Improve Access to Quality Health Care (2007)**

**Background**

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) supports the concept of a strong publicly funded health care system where access to medical care is based on need and not on the ability to pay. Health care services in Canada have historically been funded and delivered by a mix of the public and private sectors. At the present time, approximately 70% of health expenditures are publicly funded from general tax revenues; the remaining 30% are privately funded either through private insurance or out-of-pocket payments. The public-private interface occurs in two key areas: the private delivery of publicly funded services, and the delivery of privately funded services in publicly owned facilities.

Drawing on the key issues raised in the CMA's June 2005 discussion paper, *It's About Access*, this policy summary sets out guidelines for decision-making and policy development for managing the public-private interface within Canada's health care system in order to optimize timely access to high-quality care.

**Policy Principles**

The following principles provide a framework for guiding future strategies for managing the public-private interface.

- 1. Timely access:** Canadians should have timely access to medically necessary care and individual income should not remain a barrier to care.
- 2. Equity:** Access to medically necessary care must be based on need and not on ability to pay.
- 3. Choice:** Canadians should have choice of physician and physicians should have choice with respect to their practice environment.
- 4. Comprehensive:** Canadians should have access to a full spectrum of medically necessary care.
- 5. Clinical autonomy:** Any care model should respect the autonomy decision-making within the patient-physician relationship. Physicians must be free to advocate on behalf of their patients.
- 6. Quality:** The public and private health care sectors must be held to the same high-quality standards and be independently monitored. To ensure professional

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