

CANADIAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS



PREAMBLE

As medical practitioners, urologists must acknowledge our primary responsibilities are to our patients, society at large and our profession. To guide members of the Canadian Urological Association (CUA) in their interactions with patients, the public, medical industry and physician peers the following Code of Ethics has been developed. This Code has been prepared by the Canadian Urological Association in an attempt to address potential ethical issues facing Urologists practicing in Canada. The guidelines promoted in this document supplement the general ethical principles outlined in the Canadian Medical Association Code of Ethics (ref: www.cma.ca) and any other federal or provincial code of ethics documents and/or applicable laws or regulations.

This Code of Ethics has been adopted in accordance with the Canadian Urological Association's By-Law No. 3 *Relating generally to the conduct of the activities and affairs of the CUA.*

It is understood that failure to conform to the principles outlined in the CUA Code of Ethics could result in sanction against the physician that may include termination of membership, as set for in section 7.5 of By-Law no3.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The well-being of the patient must be paramount in all physician-patient interactions.
2. Patient care should be provided without discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, disability or social status.
3. The physician must be dedicated to the provision of competent urological care and strive to maintain medical knowledge and technical skill. A commitment to life-long learning is expected.
4. The physician must respect and follow the legal directives set out by his/her provincial licensing body in their practice jurisdiction. Should those requirements be contrary to patients' best interests it is the physician's duty to seek changes on their behalf.

5. The physician should strive to be an effective patient advocate and uphold the principles of timely access to care, highest quality of care and patient safety.
6. The physician must respect patient confidentiality and make every effort to protect personal health information.
7. Disclosure of personal health information to third parties must only occur following provision of patient consent or when required by law.
8. The physician must respect the patient's wishes or those of the patient's power-of-attorney with respect to the implementation, continuation or withdrawal of active treatment.
9. When asked to provide expert testimony for legal proceedings, the physician will supply timely opinions based on substantive experience and only after thoroughly reviewing the medical facts. Any reports will be comprehensive, honest and impartial.
10. The physician in an effort to protect the public and uphold the reputation of the profession should report illegal or unethical activities of other members to his/her provincial licensing body.
11. During the provision of medical care, the physician should only bill and receive professional income for services actually provided or supervised by the physician.
12. The physician participating in clinical research will conduct this activity only after scientific and ethical review and approval from the local ethics review board. When presenting research findings potential conflicts of interest will be declared.

GROUNDINGS FOR SANCTIONS

A CUA member may be subject to sanctions regarding his/her membership for ethical issues in accordance with the present Code of Ethics and as per section 7.5 of CUA's By-law No. 3.

A CUA member who fails to follow the guiding principles of the present Association's Code of Ethics may be subject to sanctions regarding his/her membership, including, but not limited, to the revocation of his/her membership.

Furthermore, a CUA member who is found guilty of any of the following transgressions may also be subject to sanctions regarding membership, including, but not limited to the revocation of his/her membership:

1. The member's license to practice medicine is suspended or revoked in any province in Canada for any of the following reasons.

- a. The physician member exhibits incompetence in the practice of Urology.
 - b. The member is convicted of a felony.
 - c. The member is found guilty of sexual misconduct in the practice of medicine.
 - d. The physician misrepresents his/her training, credentials, experience or abilities in communications with patients, the public, credentialing or licensing bodies.
2. The member is found guilty by a provincial licensing body or other governing authority of a recurrent pattern of unprofessional behavior in dealings with colleagues or other health care workers.

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