In 2014, the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA) led the creation of an Arthritis Patient Charter. This was an update of the Arthritis Society’s 2001 Canadian Arthritis Patient Bill of Rights. In the nearly 15 years since the Bill’s original development, the language of arthritis and its care has changed significantly. CAPA wishes to provide patients, their families, and their healthcare providers with a new tool to stimulate conversation, hopefully improve their partnership with their healthcare providers, and ultimately result in better outcomes for patients.

We felt that it was time to update the original Bill in ways that reflect our current realities. While the original Bill had responsibilities of the healthcare system and our providers. It was also updated with the realization that as patients we also have responsibilities in our life with arthritis - although there is a lot we can’t control, we do have responsibilities to take action where we can. It is our hope that this has stimulated thoughtful discussions and a better partnership between patients and their caregivers. We will also continue to build on the Charter through development of documents which may answer some questions that the Charter has prompted and which can be used by all arthritis stakeholders. In the end, CAPA hopes that the Charter and its various accompanying documents will create better outcomes for patients and a better overall health care.

Conclusions

Through a multistakeholder partnership, CAPA drove the update of the 2001 Arthritis Bill of Rights, which is now called the Arthritis Patient Charter. Importantly CAPA aims to educate patients about their journey with arthritis, and how their own actions can benefit their life with arthritis. The Charter and its accompanying documents will continue to evolve over time.

References


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