

Cannabis Use in Health PEI Facilities & Services

Cannabis Legalization Working Group

May 2019

Background/History

- Goal:
 - ▶ Establish a process to enable inpatients to access their cannabis for medical purposes
 - ▶ Provide direction to staff who encounter patients using cannabis
 - ▶ Advocate for patient and family-centred care and respect personal autonomy while maintaining safety & minimizing risk
- Approach:
 - ▶ Developed one comprehensive provincial document that addresses medical and recreational cannabis
- Objectives:
 - ▶ **Distinguish between medical and recreational cannabis**
 - ▶ Determine criteria to permit in-facility use
 - ▶ Provide direction on smoking, administration, storage and handling

Medical Cannabis (MC)

- ***Policy Definition:***

Cannabis that has been prescribed by a physician or nurse practitioner to an individual suffering from a diagnosed condition or illness as a physician-approved therapy that is expected to have some medical benefit, and has been obtained from a Health Canada-approved medical cannabis supplier.

Permitted in facilities with conditions

- Treated similar to a prescribed narcotic
- Health PEI does not supply MC;
Clients provide their own MC



Recreational Cannabis

- ***Policy Definition:***

Cannabis used for recreational or other purposes, which has not been prescribed by an authorized prescriber and has been obtained from a source other than a Health Canada-approved medical cannabis supplier.

Recreational cannabis is not permitted on Health PEI property

- Exception: LTC residents ONLY
- Treated similar to alcohol
- Cultivation (plants) is not permitted on HPEI Property

Medical Cannabis Use

Permitted for adult medical purposes with an order from the Most Responsible Physician/NP **and** the following criteria are met:

1. Client provides proof of authorization to use cannabis for medical purposes under the *Cannabis Act* (formally known as *Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations* (ACMPR)).
 - ▶ A medical document authorizing the use of cannabis for medical purposes, a registration certificate/document issued by a Health Canada approved licensed producer, or a Health Canada authorization document (e.g., registration certificate). See appendix A of the policy for more information.
2. Client provides the facility with their own medical cannabis purchased from a [Health Canada approved licensed producer](#).
 - ▶ Provincial retail sources will not be filling prescriptions for medical cannabis
 - ▶ Health Canada continues to manage cannabis for medical purposes
3. Medical cannabis products are in an identifiable and administrable form (i.e., oil, capsule) and requires the client's medication order.

Smoking/Vaping

Smoking/vaping cannabis (**medical or recreational**) is **prohibited** on Health PEI property in compliance with *Smoke-free Places Act* regulations

- ▶ Exception: LTC clients **ONLY** in designated LTC smoking areas
- ▶ LTC homes that are smoke-free without a designated smoking area will not be permitting smoking or vaping cannabis
- ▶ Smoking cannabis is not permitted at Hillsborough Hospital

Provincial cannabis regulations do not permit smoking cannabis in the workplace or on public property

Roles and Responsibilities

- Client:
 - ▶ Disclose use of cannabis; Inform HCP if they wish to continue using cannabis for medical purposes
 - ▶ Provide proof of authorization to use cannabis for medical purposes
 - ▶ Review and sign the [Cannabis for Medical Purposes: Client Information and Acknowledgement Form](#)
 - ▶ Provide the facility with medical cannabis for from a [Health Canada Licensed Medical Producer](#)

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Most Responsible Practitioner (MD/NP)**
 - ▶ Provide client/family education
 - ▶ Assess if medical cannabis is appropriate and safe for the episode of care
 - ▶ Write an order to authorize (approve) medical cannabis use
 - Ordering information can be obtained from the product label, reported by the client or partner in care, or the medical document from the original prescriber
 - Determine with nursing if client is capable of self-administration
 - The amount of cannabis prescribed can not exceed the amount authorized by Health Canada.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Pharmacy Technicians:**

- ▶ Request proof of authorization to use cannabis for medical purposes.
- ▶ Document proof obtained in the additional information section of the BPMH*

- **Pharmacist:**

- ▶ Confirm that proof of authorization for cannabis for medical purposes has been obtained and documented
- ▶ Review and verify the prescriber's order and indicate "patient's own supply"

** This can be completed in collaboration with nursing*

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Nursing Staff**

- ▶ Document **medical cannabis** use in the Best Possible Medication History (BPMH)
- ▶ Request proof of authorization to use cannabis for medical purposes and place a photocopy on the health record
 - Document proof obtained in the additional information section of the BPMH
(This can be completed in collaboration with pharmacy)
- ▶ Provide client with the [Cannabis for Medical Purposes: Client Information and Acknowledgment Form](#) *(available on the Staff Resource Centre)*.
 - Review information with client/family and document
 - Attach signed form to health record
- ▶ Assist with storage and administration

Storage

- Client provides the nursing staff with their cannabis for medical purposes
- Two nurses (RN or LPN) accept and acknowledge the amount received
- The nurses store and lock the cannabis in the narcotic cupboard and treat like a prescription narcotic
- Document the client's name and drug name on the top of the narcotic count sheet. Example: "Cannabis Oil – John Doe"
 - Ensure the cannabis is labeled & has client identification
 - Include quantity received (e.g., mLs, tablets)
 - Both nurses sign the initial entry on the narcotic sheet

Clients are not permitted to store their own medical cannabis at the bedside

Self-Administration

- Client's are permitted to self-administer their cannabis unless they require assistance or lack of capacity to safely self-administer
- Nursing & MRP assess capacity to self-administer and discuss an administration plan with client.
- Nursing:
 - Remove cannabis dose from the narcotic cupboard and document on the count sheet.
 - Bring cannabis dose to bedside and witness client self-administer. Document in the MAR, indicating "self-administration"

Smoking or vaping medical cannabis is not permitted on Health PEI property

Nurse Administration

- For client's that require assistance or cannot safely self-administer cannabis, nurses (RN or LPN) are permitted to administer or assist with administration.
- The nurse administers medical cannabis as per the order on the MAR and documents accordingly.
- Cannabis drug information and education is available on the [Staff Resource Centre](#)



Discharge & Disposal

- Returning medical cannabis:
 - ▶ Two nurses remove and return a client's MC from the narcotic cupboard
 - ▶ Document "Patient Discharged" on the narcotic sheet entry line & zero out the quantity
 - ▶ Document the return in the health record
- The Pharmacy Department disposes of prescribed medical cannabis left in the facility after a client is deceased.



Services Provided in the Home

- To promote a smoke-free work environment, clients are asked not to smoke in the home:
 - **One (1) hour** before a home visit by a healthcare provider
 - **During** a home visit with a healthcare provider (inside or outside the home)
- See Home Care's *Smoke Free Workplace* policy and speak to your manager/supervisor asap if a client is unable or unwilling to comply with smoking guidelines.

Services Provided in the Home

- **Nurses (RN/LPN) working in home care settings** are **not** authorized to **directly** administer medical cannabis to clients who are authorized to use it; they are permitted to assist with administration
- Review the [CRNPEI/CLPNPEI Cannabis Practice Directive](#) for administration examples and more information on nurses working in home care settings.

Recreational Cannabis: (LTC ONLY)

- LTC residents are permitted to self-administer **lawful** recreational cannabis according to [provincial regulations](#)
 - ▶ Partners in care can assist
 - ▶ HCPs are not permitted to provide information to residents on how to prepare or consume recreational cannabis
- Residents must review and sign the [Recreational Cannabis: Resident Information and Acknowledgement Form](#)
 - ▶ This form outlines Health PEI's rule and client responsibilities for recreational use in LTC

Recreational Cannabis: (LTC ONLY)

- Smoking/Vaping:
 - ▶ **Only** residents can smoke or vape cannabis in a LTC Home's designated smoking area, **if** the home has a designated area. LTC Homes that are smoke-free **without** a designated smoking area will not be permitting smoking/vaping of cannabis.
 - ▶ Visitors are not permitted to smoke/vape cannabis in a LTC facility or on the grounds, including in any designated smoking areas.
 - ▶ Residents who choose to smoke or vape recreational cannabis are first assessed to determine if they can safely smoke independently. See *LTC's Smoking Safety Standard*.

Recreational Cannabis: (LTC ONLY)

- Cannabis must be securely stored in a locked container in the resident's room out of plain sight from visitors and children
 - ▶ The resident is responsible to supply the container and holding the key; the container is **only** used to store cannabis
- Residents are not permitted to share cannabis products with other residents, staff or visitors
- Oral forms of cannabis (e.g., oil, capsules) must be consumed in the resident's room and **not** in any shared area of the LTC Home

Resources

- [SRC Site – Cannabis Legalization](#)
 - ▶ Client Information & Acknowledgment Form
 - [Cannabis for Medical Purposes](#)
 - [Recreational Cannabis](#)
 - ▶ [Federal/Provincial Legislation](#)
 - ▶ [CRNPEI/CLPNPEI Cannabis Practice Directive](#)
 - ▶ [Cannabis FAQ: General Info \(Health PEI\)](#)
 - ▶ [Cannabis & Your Workplace FAQ \(Health PEI\)](#)
 - ▶ [Health Effects of Cannabis \(Health Canada\)](#)
- Policy Appendices