

## MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

**Standards of Practice** of the Yukon Medical Council (“the Council”) are the minimum standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct expected of all physicians registered in the Yukon. Standards of Practice will be referenced in the management of complaints and in discipline

Health Canada has approved the use of marijuana for medical purposes. This standard is based on information provided in the Health Canada [Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations](#). Physicians wishing to authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes should be familiar with the *Access to Cannabis for medical Purposes Regulations* and The College of Family Physicians Canada (CFPC) document [Authorizing Dried Cannabis for Chronic Pain or Anxiety](#).

Physicians have the choice to treat or not to treat their patient’s medical condition or symptom(s) with marijuana.

- (1) A physician who chooses not to treat patient’s medical condition or symptom(s) with marijuana should do so in accordance with the *Code of Ethics* and *Standard Moral or Religious Beliefs Affecting Medical Care*.
- (2) A physician who chooses to treat patients with marijuana must:
  - (a) register with the Council as an authorizer of marijuana for medical purposes;
  - (b) attempt to find conventional therapies effective in treating the patient’s medical condition or symptom(s);
  - (c) assess the patient’s risk of addiction using a standard addiction risk tool;
  - (d) receive informed consent in accordance with *Standard Informed Consent*;
  - (e) review available prescription databases to obtain a patient medication profile;
  - (f) comply with federal regulations, including Health Canada’s *Information for Health Care Professionals*; and
  - (g) complete the patient’s medical document.
- (3) A patient’s medical document must include the:
  - (a) patient’s
    - i. given name and surname;
    - ii. date of birth; and
    - iii. personal health care number,

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**Terms used in the Standards of Practice:**

- *Physician* means any person who is registered or who is required to be registered under the Medical Profession Act.
- *Must* refers to a mandatory requirement.
- *May* means that the physician may exercise reasonable discretion.
- *Patient* includes, where applicable, the patient’s legal guardian or substitute decision maker.



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- (b) physician's
    - i. licence number;
    - ii. given name and surname;
    - iii. business address and telephone number; and
    - iv. facsimile number and email,
  - (c) address of the location at which the physician treated the patient;
  - (d) daily quantity of dried marijuana to be used by the patient expressed in grams;
  - (e) period of use specified as a number of weeks or months (not to exceed one year) beginning on the day the patient's medical document is signed; and
  - (f) physician's signature and date of signing.
- (4) A physician completing a patient medical document must:
- (a) evaluate the patient on a regular basis to determine the benefits and risks of marijuana as treatment for the medical condition or symptom(s) stated in the patient medical document;
  - (b) at minimum see the patient every three months following stabilization<sup>i</sup>;
  - (c) provide ongoing care to the patient for the underlying medical condition or symptom(s) for which marijuana is the treatment, including a process to identify misuse or abuse of marijuana; and
  - (d) if requested, provide to the Council a copy of the patient's medical document.
- (5) A physician must not:
- (a) dispense or provide marijuana directly to any patient or person; or apply to become a licensed producer of marijuana.

|  | Date            | Author             |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Approval                                     | September, 2015 | Laurel Miller      |
| Amended –<br>Added HC regs and CFPC<br>guide | May, 2018       | Stephanie Connolly |

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<sup>i</sup> The stabilization phase is defined by the use of a stable amount, medical condition or symptom(s) relief and reasonable confidence that no misuse is occurring.

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