Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11514

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

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2020-02-29

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2015-02-28

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

CMA POLICY

Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

The legalization of cannabis for recreational purposes has raised numerous concerns, particularly among healthcare providers and patients. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) acknowledges the complex issues surrounding cannabis use and the potential benefits and risks associated with its legalization.

While the decision to authorize cannabis for medical purposes has been made by the government, healthcare providers are advised to approach this topic with caution and care.

1. **Patient Safety**
   - Health professionals should carefully consider the potential risks and benefits of cannabis use.
   - Patients should be informed about the possible side effects and interactions with other medications.

2. **Medical Research**
   - The need for rigorous medical research to establish the efficacy and safety of cannabis.
   - The CMA supports research that could help in understanding the therapeutic potential of cannabis.

3. **Public Health**
   - The importance of public health policies that aim to minimize harm associated with cannabis use.
   - The role of governments in regulating the production and distribution of cannabis to ensure public safety.

4. **Legal Framework**
   - The necessity for a legal framework that governs the use of cannabis in a manner consistent with public health goals.
   - The CMA advocates for a regulatory approach that balances patient access with public health considerations.

The CMA encourages healthcare providers to remain informed about developments in this area and to engage in ongoing education and discussion regarding the medical use of cannabis.

The Canadian Medical Association is committed to providing guidance that is evidence-based and clinically relevant. Healthcare providers are advised to consult the latest research and guidelines when making decisions regarding the medical use of cannabis.

The CMA recognizes the complexity of the issue and acknowledges the need for continued dialogue among healthcare providers, policy-makers, and the general public to develop a comprehensive approach to the medical use of cannabis.

The CMA supports the following principles:

1. **Patient Consent**
   - Patients should be fully informed about the potential benefits and risks of cannabis use.
   - Consent should be obtained before initiating treatment with cannabis.

2. **Evidence-Based Medicine**
   - The importance of evidence-based medicine in informing clinical practice.
   - Healthcare providers should rely on the best available evidence to make decisions regarding cannabis use.

3. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**
   - The need for collaboration among healthcare providers, researchers, and policymakers.
   - The CMA encourages interdisciplinary approaches to addressing the medical use of cannabis.

4. **Regulatory Framework**
   - The need for a regulatory framework that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to public health needs.
   - The CMA supports the development of a regulatory framework that promotes patient safety and public health.

The CMA encourages healthcare providers to stay informed about the latest developments in cannabis research and policy to provide the best possible care for their patients.

The CMA acknowledges the challenges associated with the medical use of cannabis and the need for ongoing dialogue and collaboration to address these issues effectively.

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
Cannabis for Medical Purposes
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10045

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

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2019-03-03

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2010-12-04

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Medication use and seniors (Update 2017)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10151

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

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2019-03-03

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2011-05-28

REPLACES
Medication use and seniors

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Vision for e-Prescribing: a joint statement by the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Pharmacists Association
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10670

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
LAST REVIEWED  2019-03-03
DATE  2012-12-08
TOPICS  Health information and e-health
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Position statement on prescription drug shortages in Canada
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy0756

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
LAST REVIEWED  2017-03-04
DATE  2013-05-25
TOPICS  Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Complementary and alternative medicine (update 2015)

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Policy document

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2015-05-30

REPLACES
Complementary and alternative medicine (Update 2008)

TOPICS
Health care and patient safety
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

CMA POLICY

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
(Update 2015)

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) position on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is informed by the need to recognize the various forms of CAM, their potential benefits and risks, and their role in patient care. The CMA recognizes the importance of continued research in this area to better understand the effectiveness and safety of CAM. The CMA also acknowledges the need for education and training for healthcare providers to enable them to provide appropriate guidance to patients about CAM.

Chiropractic care

Chiropractic care has been defined as the practice of diagnosing and treating musculoskeletal disorders and related conditions. Chiropractic care can include a variety of techniques such as manipulation, mobilization, and myofascial release. The benefits of chiropractic care are supported by scientific evidence. Patients may benefit from chiropractic care for a variety of conditions including low back pain, headache, and joint pain.

Herbal medicine

Herbal medicine refers to the use of plants and other natural substances for their therapeutic properties. The benefits of herbal medicine are supported by scientific evidence. Patients may benefit from herbal medicine for a variety of conditions including gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory conditions, and skin conditions.

Acupuncture

Acupuncture is a traditional Chinese medicine practice that involves inserting thin needles into specific points on the body. The benefits of acupuncture are supported by scientific evidence. Patients may benefit from acupuncture for a variety of conditions including pain management, stress reduction, and overall health.

The CMA recommends that healthcare providers inform patients of the potential benefits and risks of CAM and provide evidence-based guidance about the effectiveness and safety of CAM. Healthcare providers should also consider the patient's preferences and values when making treatment decisions.
Harms associated with opioids and other psychoactive prescription drugs

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11535

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TOPICS      Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents