Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

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Documents
Cannabis for Medical Purposes

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Cannabis for Medical Purposes

CMA POLICY

This is a CMA policy and as such is the official position of the Association on the issue.

Cannabis for Medical Purposes

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recognizes the urgency of requirements of those individuals suffering from terminal illness or chronic disease for which conventional therapies have not been effective and in some cases considered inhumane.

Therefore, there is a need for additional evidence to support current clinical practice. The CMA recommends that government health departments and the Canadian Aesthetic Society of Medical Oncology (CASMO), as well as the Canadian Association of Physicians for Palliative Care (CAPPC), undertake to establish guidelines for the medical community.

The need for medical cannabis for patients with chronic diseases is well known, and the information is available from recognized medical sources.

The CMA endorses the following recommendations:

1. Increase support for the advancement of scientific knowledge about the medical use of cannabis.
2. Support the development of a licensing framework to ensure the production of safe, effective, and affordable cannabis for medical purposes.
3. Increase support for the development of guidelines for medical practitioners on the appropriate use of cannabis for medical purposes.

This policy is relevant to the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) as it represents the official position of the Association on the issue.

References:

MEDICATION USE AND SENIORS

(UPDATE 2017)

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) endorses the following policy statement in support of the right of all citizens to safe, effective, and appropriate access to health and health-related services, including medications, in Canada. This policy statement is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all medications or specific medications in any sector or situation. It is intended to provide guidance and education on the principles of appropriate medication use in the context of the public health system, to guide the development of policies and programs that promote appropriate medication use, and to encourage the implementation of evidence-based practices that improve health outcomes.

The CMA recognizes the importance of appropriate medication use in maintaining the health and well-being of all Canadians. Appropriate medication use is defined as the use of medications that are safe, effective, and appropriate for the patient's individual needs, consistent with the best available evidence and practice guidelines. It involves the timely use of medications, the right amount, the right route, and the right timing of administration.

The following principles guide appropriate medication use:

1. Patient-centered care: The patient's needs, values, and preferences should be the primary consideration in medication decisions.
2. Safety: Medications should be used in a way that minimizes the risk of harm to the patient.
3. Effectiveness: Medications should be used to achieve the intended therapeutic outcome.
4. Appropriateness: Medications should be used in a way that is consistent with the best available evidence and practice guidelines.
5. Optimality: Medications should be used in a way that maximizes the benefits and minimizes the risks of adverse events.
6. Cost-effectiveness: Medications should be used in a way that maximizes the benefits and minimizes the costs.

The CMA also recognizes the importance of appropriate medication use in the context of chronic diseases, where medications are often used to manage symptoms or prevent disease progression. In these situations, appropriate medication use involves the consideration of the long-term benefits and risks of medication use, as well as the potential for medication interactions and polypharmacy.

The CMA endorses the development of policies and programs that promote appropriate medication use and encourages the implementation of evidence-based practices that improve health outcomes. These policies and programs should be developed in collaboration with all stakeholders, including healthcare providers, patients, and the public, to ensure that the principles of appropriate medication use are integrated into healthcare systems and practices.

The CMA also recognizes the importance of appropriate medication use in the context of health and wellness promotion, where medications are often used to prevent disease or promote health. In these situations, appropriate medication use involves the consideration of the long-term benefits and risks of medication use, as well as the potential for medication interactions and polypharmacy.

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Position statement on prescription drug shortages in Canada

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Health care and patient safety
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Documents
Harms associated with opioids and other psychoactive prescription drugs

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