CMA Recommendations on Vaccine Equity and Intellectual Property
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14476

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2022-05-13

TOPICS
Ethics and medical professionalism
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Policy Brief: CSAM-SMCA in Support of the Decriminalization of Drug Use and Possession for Personal Use
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14443

POLICY TYPE  Policy endorsement
DATE  2021-06-24
TOPICS  Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents

Policy Brief: CSAM-SMCA in Support of the Decriminalization of Drug Use and Possession for Personal Use

INTRODUCTION

Pharmaceuticals, prescription medications, and cannabis are essential components of our healthcare system. They provide critical treatments and therapies that improve health outcomes and save lives. However, the criminalization of drug use and possession has long been a controversial issue in public health and policy-making. This Policy Brief aims to provide evidence and support for the decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use, highlighting its benefits for public health and equity.

STATEMENT OF TRADITIONAL POLICY PRINCIPLES

Traditional policies on drug use and possession have often been based on a punitive approach, focusing on criminalization rather than harm reduction. This approach has led to the stigmatization of drug users and has not effectively addressed the underlying social and health issues associated with drug use. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) advocates for a more comprehensive and evidence-based approach to drug policy that prioritizes public health and social well-being.

BENEFITS OF DECriminalIZATION

Decriminalization offers several benefits, including improved access to healthcare services, reduced stigma, and enhanced public health outcomes. By decriminalizing drug use and possession, individuals can more easily access medical treatments and support services, leading to better health outcomes. Additionally, decriminalization can help reduce the harm associated with drug use and possession, such as overdose deaths, by shifting the focus from punishment to prevention and treatment.

EMERGING EVIDENCE

Recent studies have shown that decriminalization can lead to significant improvements in public health outcomes. For example, the decriminalization of drug use and possession in some jurisdictions has resulted in increased access to treatment services, reduced overdose rates, and improved social integration for drug users.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, decriminalization of drug use and possession offers a more effective and humane approach to addressing drug-related issues. The CMA strongly supports the decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to drug policy that prioritizes public health and social well-being.

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
Taking action on drug shortages during Covid-19 – open letter
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14261

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2020-08-13
TOPICS  Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

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

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

LAST REVIEWED
2020-02-29

DATE
2015-02-28

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

CMA POLICY

Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

The legalization of cannabis for recreational purposes recently took effect in Canada on October 17, 2018, and presents a new and complex opportunity for health care providers and health systems to respond with evidence-based policies and practices. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) reviewed this new situation as part of its ongoing evidence-based approach to drug policy and as part of its mandate to provide information and guidance to physicians and health care providers on policy-relevant matters.

The CMA recognizes the potential of cannabis as a therapeutic option, particularly for conditions such as pain management, multiple sclerosis, and post-traumatic stress disorder. However, the CMA also recognizes the potential for misuse and impaired driving, particularly among young people, and the need for ongoing research to better understand the risks and benefits of cannabis use.

The CMA supports the development of evidence-based policies and guidelines to ensure the safe and appropriate use of cannabis, and encourages ongoing research to better understand the risks and benefits of cannabis use.

The CMA encourages health care providers to engage in evidence-based practices and to communicate with patients about the potential risks and benefits of cannabis use. The CMA also recommends ongoing education and training for health care providers on the use of cannabis as a therapeutic option.

The CMA encourages governmental agencies to develop and implement evidence-based policies and guidelines to ensure the safe and appropriate use of cannabis, and to provide education and training for health care providers.

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The CMA encourages governmental agencies to develop and implement evidence-based policies and guidelines to ensure the safe and appropriate use of cannabis, and to provide education and training for health care providers.
Health Canada consultation on reducing youth access and appeal of vaping products
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14078

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### Documents

[Image: CMA response: HEALTH CANADA CONSULTATION ON REDUCING YOUTH ACCESS AND APPEAL OF VAPING PRODUCTS]

March 2019
Cannabis for Medical Purposes

CMA POLICY

Cannabis for Medical Purposes

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) recognizes the unique requirements of these individuals suffering from a terminal illness or chronic disease for whom conventional therapies have not been effective and for whom cannabis is being considered.

Policies have not been adopted in the absence of evidence to support their use. In the meantime, the following recommendations are made:

For the introduction of any new cannabis products, the following recommendations are made:

1. Promote the need for the advancement of scientific knowledge about the medical use of cannabis. For this purpose the Department of Health, National Health and Welfare, and others should support research on the efficacy, safety and efficacy, effectiveness, addiction potential, and the nature of use of cannabis.

2. Support the strengthening of regulatory oversight and monitoring of supplies to be used as therapeutic agents.

3. Promote the need for the advancement of scientific knowledge about the medical use of cannabis.

For the introduction of any new cannabis products, the following recommendations are made:

1. Support the need for the advancement of scientific knowledge about the medical use of cannabis.

2. Support the strengthening of regulatory oversight and monitoring of supplies to be used as therapeutic agents.

3. Promote the need for the advancement of scientific knowledge about the medical use of cannabis.

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2. Support the strengthening of regulatory oversight and monitoring of supplies to be used as therapeutic agents.

3. Promote the need for the advancement of scientific knowledge about the medical use of cannabis.
Medication use and seniors (Update 2017)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10151

POLICY TYPE  Policy document
LAST REVIEWED  2019-03-03
DATE  2011-05-28
REPLACES  Medication use and seniors
TOPICS  Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

MEDICATION USE AND SENIORS (UPDATE 2017)

The Canadian Medical Association recommends the government and provincial/territorial governments and community groups develop a comprehensive strategy to improve the accessibility, affordability, availability and acceptability of medications for seniors in Canada.

A comprehensive strategy to improve the accessibility, affordability, availability and acceptability of medications for seniors in Canada should include:

1. Improved access to innovative and life-saving medications for seniors.
2. Increased funding for research on medications for seniors.
3. Improved access to medications for seniors in long-term care facilities.
4. Improved access to medications for seniors in rural and remote areas.
5. Improved access to medications for seniors in low-income areas.

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3. Improved access to medications for seniors in long-term care facilities.
4. Improved access to medications for seniors in rural and remote areas.
5. Improved access to medications for seniors in low-income areas.
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
Health Canada consultation on edible cannabis, extracts & topicals
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14020

POLICY TYPE: Response to consultation
DATE: 2019-02-20
TOPICS: Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
        Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
Health Canada consultation on Canadian drugs and substances strategy
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14017

**POLICY TYPE**  Response to consultation

**DATE**  2018-12-04

**TOPICS**  Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents

CMA response:
HEALTH CANADA CONSULTATION ON CANADIAN DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES STRATEGY

November 1, 2018
## Implementation of National Pharmacare

[https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13933](https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13933)

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<td>Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs</td>
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## Documents

- CMA submission: [IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PHARMACARE](https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13933)
- Submission to the Advisory Council

[Theresa 2018]
Health Canada consultation on tobacco products regulations (plain and standardized appearance)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13930

POLICY TYPE  Response to consultation
DATE  2018-09-06
TOPICS  Health care and patient safety
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Support life-saving supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites: open letter to Premier Doug Ford and Health Minister Christine Elliott
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13931

POLICY TYPE  Policy endorsement
DATE  2018-08-30
TOPICS  Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

August 30, 2018
The Honourable Marco E. Minniti
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

We urge you to consider the following principles, consistent with international best practices: 

1. Support life-saving supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites: 

   - Open letter to Premier Doug Ford and Health Minister Christine Elliott
   - https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13931

2. Pharmacies: support a more integrated model of care: 

   - Policy: https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13931

3. Federal role: 

   - Health Canada consultation on regulatory amendments regarding tramadol

4. CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association

We urge you to take the recommendations of experts in public health, addiction medicine, harm reduction, and other fields into account.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]
Health Canada consultation on regulatory amendments regarding tramadol

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13927

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<td>TOPICS</td>
<td>Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs</td>
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**Documents**
Health Canada consultation on restriction of marketing and advertising of opioids
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13921

**POLICY TYPE**  
Response to consultation

**DATE**  
2018-07-18

**TOPICS**  
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

**Documents**
Consultation on proposed front-of-package labelling
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13882

POLICY TYPE  Response to consultation
DATE         2018-04-23
TOPICS       Health care and patient safety
             Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

Dear [Recipient],

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has been invited to participate in the federal Government’s consultation on the labelling of cannabis products. The purpose of this consultation is to seek input on proposed front-of-package labelling that would assist in informing consumers of the health risks associated with cannabis use, and to inform them of the effects that cannabis and its derivatives have on health. The labelling proposals were developed in consultation with the provinces and territories, and were informed by an expert consultation process involving health care providers, consumers, and other stakeholders.

The CMA believes that front-of-package labelling is an important tool to support informed decision-making by consumers. However, it is important to note that the information on the labelling should be clear, accurate, and verifiable. The CMA also recommends that the labelling be accompanied by comprehensive education and outreach programs to help consumers understand the potential risks associated with cannabis use.

The CMA supports the development of a framework that includes the following key elements:

- Clear and consistent definitions of the terms used on the labels
- Accurate and verifiable information about the health risks associated with cannabis use
- A robust system for monitoring the effectiveness of the labelling
- Ongoing education and outreach programs to help consumers understand the potential risks associated with cannabis use

The CMA recommends that the federal government consider these elements when developing the final labelling requirements.

Yours sincerely,
[Author]
Bill C-45: The Cannabis Act
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13861

POLICY TYPE  Parliamentary submission
DATE  2018-04-18
TOPICS  Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
CMA’s Recommendations for Bill S-5 An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers’ Health Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13918

POLICY TYPE            Parliamentary submission
DATE                2018-02-15
TOPICS          Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
                 Health care and patient safety

Documents

CMA Submission:
CMA’s Recommendations for Bill S-5: An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers’ Health Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health
February 15, 2018
Proposed approach to the regulation of cannabis

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13838

POLICY TYPE
Response to consultation

DATE
2018-01-19

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Excise duty framework for cannabis products
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13799

POLICY TYPE: Response to consultation
DATE: 2017-12-07
TOPICS: Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents