Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

LAST REVIEWED
2020-02-29

DATE
2015-02-28

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

The legislation of cannabis for medical purposes remains in effect with the Cannabis Act in October 2018, and patients remain the same access to cannabis. It is important to note that the CMA has not developed specific policy on the use of cannabis for medical purposes. The CMA is aware that cannabis can have both beneficial and harmful effects on health. The CMA supports the use of cannabis for medical purposes when it is prescribed by a physician. The CMA is concerned about the potential for misuse of cannabis and the impact of its use on public health and safety. The CMA supports research into the potential medical uses of cannabis and encourages the development of guidelines for the use of cannabis for medical purposes.

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<th>POLICY TYPE</th>
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<td>DATE</td>
<td>2017-08-18</td>
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<td>TOPICS</td>
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Documents

CMA Submission:
Bill C-45: The Cannabis Act

Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health

August 18, 2017
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

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Canada's lower-risk cannabis use guidelines (LRCUG)
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13726

POLICY TYPE: Policy endorsement
DATE: 2017-05-26
TOPICS: Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents
Cannabis for Medical Purposes

https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10045

POLICY TYPE
Policy document

LAST REVIEWED
2019-03-03

DATE
2010-12-04

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

CMA POLICY

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA), has long recognized the validity of recommendations that cannabis, or marijuana, is a medically appropriate and effective analgesic for patients suffering from chronic pain.

Cannabis has several medical applications, including pain management, nausea and appetite stimulation, and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

The CMA supports the development of evidence-based guidelines for the use of cannabis in medical practice, including the establishment of medical marijuana clinics and the development of evidence-based guidelines for the use of cannabis in managing chronic pain.

The CMA also supports the development of policy and guidelines for the safe and effective use of cannabis in medical practice, including the establishment of medical marijuana clinics and the development of evidence-based guidelines for the use of cannabis in managing chronic pain.

The CMA has made the following recommendations:

1. Increase support for the advancement of scientific knowledge about the medicinal use of cannabinoids.
2. Support the development of evidence-based guidelines for the use of cannabis in managing chronic pain.
3. Support the development of policy and guidelines for the safe and effective use of cannabis in medical practice.

The CMA recommends that the use of cannabis in medical practice be considered in the context of overall patient care, taking into account the potential benefits and risks of cannabis use for each individual patient.

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The CMA recommends that the use of cannabis in medical practice be considered in the context of overall patient care, taking into account the potential benefits and risks of cannabis use for each individual patient.
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/policy13641

POLICY TYPE       Parliamentary submission
DATE              2017-04-07
TOPICS            Health care and patient safety
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

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 Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

April 7, 2017
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
Health Canada consultation on Canadian drugs and substances strategy
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14017

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<td>Population health, health equity, public health</td>
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Documents
Health Canada consultation on potential market for cannabis health products that would not require practitioner oversight
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy14125

POLICY TYPE  Response to consultation
DATE  2019-09-03
TOPICS  Health care and patient safety
        Population health, health equity, public health

Documents
The Health risks and harms associated with the use of marijuana
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11138

POLICY TYPE
Parliamentary submission

DATE
2014-05-27

TOPICS
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs
Legalization, regulation and restriction of access to marijuana
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11954

POLICY TYPE  Response to consultation
DATE  2016-08-29
TOPICS  Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

CMA Submission
Legalization, Regulation and Restriction of Access to Marijuana

Government of Canada – Task Force on Marijuana Legalization and Regulation

August 29, 2016

STATEMENT  |  DÉCLARATION

Choi, Jonathan - Application d’Emploi

Policy, September 1, 2016 - The CMA’s submission to the Royal Commission on Marijuana Legalization and Regulation states that: The Commission’s mandate and Terms of Reference are clear. The Commission’s mandate is to proceed with the initial consultation with a view to considering legalizing and regulating marijuana and producing recommendations on the handling and consumption of marijuana. The Commission’s Terms of Reference state: Proceeding with the legalization process is fraught with the potential for unintended public health, social and economic consequences, given the risks in the current state of medical and scientific knowledge, given the possible health and social harms of cannabis use, given the lack of research on cannabis’s potential medical benefits and given the major public health impacts associated with marijuana use.

As such, the CMA’s submission clearly stresses the need for evidence-based recommendations for the potential harms and potential benefits of cannabis. However, it also acknowledges that the Commission’s mandate requires the consideration of potential harms. Proceeding with the legalization process is fraught with the potential for unintended public health, social and economic consequences, given the risks in the current state of medical and scientific knowledge, given the possible health and social harms of cannabis use, given the lack of research on cannabis’s potential medical benefits and given the major public health impacts associated with marijuana use.

The CMA recommends that the Canadian experience applying alcohol regulations: Develop strategies to address issues such as: + Promoting and preventing underage use + Reducing the black market + Increasing harm reduction and treatment services + Reducing access to illegal marijuana + Addressing tobacco and cannabis use + Systems for the regulation and control of legal marijuana

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For more information, visit: https://www.cma.ca/18-1985

Health Canada, 2015. "What are the medical and health benefits or harms for the use of cannabis?" CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association
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