Cannabis for Medical Purposes

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Policy document

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Cannabis for Medical Purposes

CANNABIS POLICY

Policy Statement:
The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has long recognized the value in medical cannabis (CMJ, May 2009) in terms of cost savings, health improvement and patient satisfaction. Such use is consistent with the CMA’s policy on pain management, effective pain control (CMJ, Nov 2008), and with the CMA’s policy on the use of prescription drugs and the responsible use of prescription drugs (CMJ, Jan 2009).

In recognition of the need for additional evidence to support many of the claims made about cannabis, the CMA has commissioned a review of the relevant literature.

The research and clinical data supporting medical cannabis for pain management is sparse. The CMA endorses the importance of the conduct of ongoing research to establish the effective use of medical cannabis for pain management.

The CMA thus endorses the following recommendations:

1. Support the advancement of scientific knowledge about the medical use of cannabis for pain management by funding, on a priority basis, research into the efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness of medical cannabis.

2. Support the development of appropriate regulatory frameworks to ensure the safety and efficacy of medical cannabis.

3. Support the development of evidence-based clinical guidelines for the appropriate use of medical cannabis for pain management.

The CMA recognizes the need for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the impact of medical cannabis on patient care.

The CMA encourages health care professionals to remain informed about the current evidence and guidelines for the appropriate use of medical cannabis for pain management.

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association