Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

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CMA POLICY

Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

The legalization of cannabis for recreational purposes recently came into effect with the Cannabis Act in October 2018, and provisions to be accessed by authorized medical practitioners. Our initiatives in this area are part of a comprehensive plan to ensure the appropriate prescription and use of this drug in Canadian communities.

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) strongly supports the regulation of cannabis by the federal government to ensure patient safety and public health. We recognize the need for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of the impacts of cannabis legalization.

The CMA recommends that:

1. Medical cannabis should be prescribed for therapeutic use only.
2. Healthcare providers should be educated about the risks and benefits of medical cannabis.
3. Research into the therapeutic effects of medical cannabis should be supported.

We encourage healthcare professionals to continue to monitor the effects of cannabis legalization and to provide ongoing support to patients using medical cannabis.

The CMA acknowledges the importance of addressing the social and health implications of cannabis legalization.

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