Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

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CMA POLICY

Authorizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

The legalization of cannabis for recreational use in Canada in July 2018 and the expansion of access to cannabis for medical purposes in Canada is a significant development in public health policy. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) supports the provision of cannabis for medical purposes for patients who have a medical indication and for whom the use of cannabis under a physician’s supervision is appropriate. However, it is important to recognize the potential risks and harms associated with the use of cannabis, including addiction, cognitive impairment, and respiratory and other medical conditions.

The CMA acknowledges the complex and evolving nature of cannabis policy and recommends that the federal government establish a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to cannabis regulation.

The CMA recommends that the federal government:

1. Establish a regulatory framework that ensures safe and accessible access to cannabis for medical purposes.
2. Conduct ongoing review of the effectiveness of the regulatory framework.
3. Establish mechanisms for ongoing research on the health effects of cannabis use.

The CMA also recommends that the federal government establish a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to cannabis policy.

The CMA further recommends that the federal government:

1. Establish a regulatory framework that ensures safe and accessible access to cannabis for medical purposes.
2. Conduct ongoing review of the effectiveness of the regulatory framework.
3. Establish mechanisms for ongoing research on the health effects of cannabis use.

The CMA encourages all members of the profession to be familiar with these guidelines and to encourage their use in the context of patient care.

The CMA acknowledges that cannabis use can have significant health implications and encourages all members of the profession to be familiar with these guidelines and to encourage their use in the context of patient care.

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