

<u>POLICY TITLE</u> CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES		
<u>AUTHORIZATION</u> VCH/PHC Regional Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee	<u>DATE APPROVED</u> Nov. 26, 2018	<u>DATE(S) REVISED</u> DRAFT 16Nov2018

Date	Comments / Changes
XX	Revisions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised introduction to replace Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations with Cannabis Regulations and to recognize that cannabis for non medical purposes is now legal in Canada • Patient documentation now includes a registration certificate for possession only • LPNs are permitted to administer cannabis • Revised definitions (equivalency factor, medical document, medical cannabis) • New definitions (provincially licensed retailer, registration certification for possession only, registration document) • New section (Additional Resources) • Revised References • Revised Appendix A (Labelling Requirements for Cannabis) to reflect Cannabis Regulations • Revised Appendix B (Procedures for Accessing Cannabis fro Medical Purposes)

Introduction

Cannabis (marijuana, marihuana) has not been issued a Notice of Compliance (NOC) by Health Canada, due to the lack of sufficient scientific evidence that establishes the safety and efficacy of cannabis, to the extent required for the marketing of drugs in Canada. As cannabis has not been marketed as a drug, Pharmacy Services does not purchase, stock or supply the product.

As of 17 Oct 2018, the current legislation, entitled [Cannabis Regulations](#) replaced all other previous regulations. Under the [Cannabis Regulations](#), individuals may purchase cannabis for medical or non medical purposes. Individuals with a medical need are able to purchase cannabis for medical purposes from federally [licensed producers](#) or from provincially licensed retailers.

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline parameters for prescribing, accessing, administering, and storing cannabis for medical purposes.

Policy Scope

This policy focuses on the use of cannabis for medical purposes in Licensed Health Care Facilities within Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care.

Policy Statements

General Requirements for Use of Medical Cannabis

- 4.1 Cannabis for medical purposes may be approved for use by patients in Lower Mainland facilities, provided that:

- 4.1.1 The prescriber has written an order for medical cannabis, and
- 4.1.2 The patient has his/her own supply or is able to procure his/her own supply, and
- 4.1.3 The patient's own supply of medical cannabis is accessed from a legal source (federally licensed producer or provincially licensed retailer) and
- 4.1.4 The patient's own supply of medical cannabis is in a format that
 - is intended for oral use (e.g. capsules, oral liquid)
 - facilitates a measureable dose (milligrams of active ingredient)
 - does not require further manipulation prior to administration
- 4.1.5 The patient has required documentation for medical cannabis (See 4.3)

Medical Cannabis Orders

- 4.2 The prescriber's order for patient's own medical cannabis shall meet the requirements of a medication order, specifying form, strength, dose, route (oral), and frequency.
 - 4.2.1 The oral route (e.g. capsules, oral liquid) is the only route approved for use in health care settings
 - 4.2.2 Medical cannabis manipulated into baked goods, candy or other edible treat formats shall not be permitted
 - 4.2.3 Smoking or vaporization routes are not permitted on hospital grounds, in compliance with existing smoking policies.
 - 4.2.4 Dried cannabis or fresh leaves, either home grown or purchased directly from a licensed producer shall not be permitted in any form

Documentation from the Patient

- 4.3 The patient shall be responsible for providing appropriate documentation, indicating that their cannabis supply is intended for medical use
 - 4.3.1 Appropriate documentation includes:
 - Registration document issued by a federally licensed producer, or
 - Registration certificate issued by Health Canada for possession only. (This new registration "for possession only" is available to meet the needs of those choosing to access their supply of cannabis for medical purposes exclusively from a provincially licensed retailer).

Note: Those authorized to access cannabis for medical purposes must be prepared to show they are legally allowed to possess more than 30 grams (or equivalent) in public, if requested by law enforcement. This can be done by showing their registration document or their registration certificate. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/medical-use-cannabis.html>

- 4.3.2 The documentation shall be reviewed by the prescriber, prior to writing the order

Supply

- 4.4 Medical cannabis must be in the original container supplied by the federally [licensed producer](#) or the provincially licensed retailer (See Appendix A: "Labelling Requirements for Medical Cannabis").

- 4.5 Patients who do not have their own supply may access medical cannabis as per the process outlined in Appendix B: “Procedures for Accessing Cannabis for Medical Purposes”
- 4.5.1 Note: Due to the time required for registration and receipt of product, this process may be more pertinent to patients with longer stays, such as residential care settings.
- 4.6 Pharmacy Services shall:
- 4.6.1 Confirm that the medical cannabis supply was accessed via a federally [licensed producer](#) or a provincially licensed retailer by consulting the Health Canada list of federally [licensed producer](#) producers to confirm the manufacturer
Note: The BC Liquor Distribution Branch purchases cannabis from federally licensed producers and distributes to provincially licensed retailers.
- 4.6.2 Verify that the product label meets the standards, set forth in the Cannabis Regulations (See Appendix A: Labelling Requirements for Medical Cannabis)
- 4.6.3 Ensure that the product form and strength corresponds to the medication order
- 4.6.4 Follow standard processes for identification, verification, and labelling of the patient’s own cannabis supply as per the “Patient’s Own Medications” policy (HA link)
- 4.6.5 Follow standard processes for secure handling of the patient’s own cannabis supply, as per Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services policy “[Narcotics and Controlled Drugs – Distribution by Pharmacy Services – LMPS](#))

Storage, Access and Accountability

- 4.7 Medical cannabis shall be stored in the same manner as other patient’s own controlled substances, accessible only by authorized personnel.
- 4.8 As with other patient’s own controlled substances, medical cannabis shall be handled in a manner that permits an audit or investigation to be conducted, accompanied by a signature trail and written documentation, as outlined in facility procedures.
(See Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services policy “[Narcotics and Controlled Drugs – Distribution by Pharmacy Services – LMPS](#))

Administration

- 4.9 While on the Health Authority premises
- 4.9.1 Patients shall not smoke or vaporize their medical cannabis, in compliance with existing smoking policies.
- 4.10 Nurses are permitted to administer prescriber-ordered medical cannabis to the patient, under the conditions set forth in this policy.

Discharge

- 4.11 On discharge, the patient shall take their remaining supply of medical cannabis with them.

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Documentation

- 4.12 The patient's use of medical cannabis shall be documented on the medication history or medication reconciliation forms.
- 4.13 The order for medical cannabis shall be processed by Nursing and Pharmacy staff so that it appears on the Medication Administration Record.
- 4.14 Nursing staff shall document administration of medical cannabis on the Medication Administration Record.
- 4.15 Nursing staff shall ensure inventory records are maintained in the same manner as for other controlled substances

Definitions

Cannabis Oil means an oil, in liquid form at room temperature of $22 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$, that contains cannabis in its natural form, which has been activated. Cannabis oil is generally available as liquid form in bottles or as capsules.

Equivalency Factor is defined as the amount equivalent to 1 g dried cannabis. The amount per day (dose) must be expressed in g of dried cannabis, on the medical document, by the prescriber, regardless of the format ordered by the client. The equivalency factor information is provided by federally licensed producers and provincially licensed retailers. According to the BC Cannabis Stores website, one (1) gram of dried cannabis is equal to:

- 5 grams of fresh cannabis
- 15 grams of edible product
- 70 grams of liquid product
- 1 cannabis plant seed

<https://www.bccannabisstores.com/pages/faqs>

Dried Cannabis means harvested cannabis that has been subjected to any drying process, but does not include seeds.

Federally Licensed Producer is the holder of a license issued by Health Canada under the *Cannabis Regulations*. Licensed producers are authorized to possess, produce, sell, provide, ship, deliver, transport and destroy fresh or dried cannabis, cannabis oil, or cannabis seeds or plants for propagation to eligible persons. See list of Authorized Licensed Producers at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-use-marijuana/licensed-producers/authorized-licensed-producers-medical-purposes.html>

Licensed Health Care Facilities are those facilities owned, operated, and licensed by the health authority to provide health care services under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, and in line with the legal definition of a hospital under the *Narcotic Control Regulations*.

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Medical Document is a document that must be completed by an authorized health care practitioner. The prescriber indicates the daily quantity (gram dried cannabis) and the period of use (days, weeks, months). The document must be completed annually at minimum. The medical document i) authorizes the patient to access medical cannabis via a federally licensed producer; or ii) authorizes the patient to request a registration certificate from Health Canada. See sample medical document at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-use-marijuana/licensed-producers/sample-medical-document-marihuana-medical-purposes-regulations.html>

Medical Cannabis is cannabis obtained by the client, from a federally licensed producer or a provincially licensed retailer. Authorization to possess medical cannabis accessed from a federally licensed producer is in the form of a registration document, while authorization to possess medical cannabis from a provincially licensed retailer is in the form of a registration certificate.

Provincially Licensed Retailer is the holder of a license issued by the province of B.C. Provincially licensed retailers may be accessed on line or via retail outlets. The B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch purchases cannabis from federally licensed producers and distributes to provincially licensed retailers.

Registration Certificate for possession only is a certificate issued by Health Canada, for possession only. This new registration “for possession only”, requiring an original medical document, is available to meet the needs of those choosing to access their supply of cannabis for medical purposes exclusively from a provincially licensed retailer. Those authorized to access cannabis for medical purposes **must** be prepared to show they are legally allowed to possess more than 30 grams (or equivalent) in public, if requested by law enforcement. This can be done by showing their registration document or registration certificate.

Registration Document is a document issued to the client by the federally licensed producer upon registering with the federally licensed producer. The registration process, requiring an original medical document, is unique to each federally licensed producer. Those authorized to access cannabis for medical purposes **must** be prepared to show they are legally allowed to possess more than 30 grams (or equivalent) in public, if requested by law enforcement. This can be done by showing their registration document or registration certificate.

6. Additional Resources

B.C. College of Nursing Professionals. Cannabis Resource Centre. Retrieved from https://www.bccnp.ca/Standards/all_nurses/resources/Pages/Cannabis.aspx

Health Canada. (Spring 2018) Information for Health Care Professionals: Cannabis (marihuana, marijuana) and the cannabinoids. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-use-marijuana/information-medical-practitioners/information-health-care-professionals-cannabis-marihuana-marijuana-cannabinoids.html>

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Health Canada. (Jul 2016) Consumer Information – Cannabis. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/migration/hc-sc/dhp-mps/alt_formats/pdf/marihuana/info/cons-eng.pdf

7. References

Health Canada. (17Oct2018) Cannabis Act. Retrieved from <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-24.5/page-1.html>

Health Canada (24Oct2018) Cannabis Regulations. Retrieved from <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-144/>

Health Canada. (26Oct2018) Licensed producers of cannabis for medical purposes. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/licensed-producers/authorized-licensed-producers-medical-purposes.html>

Health Canada. (23Mar2017) Medical Document authorizing the use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes under the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-use-marijuana/licensed-producers/sample-medical-document-marihuana-medical-purposes-regulations.html>

Government of Canada. (17Oct2018) Cannabis for medical purposes under the Cannabis Act: information and improvements: Possession and personal storage limits under the Cannabis Act. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/medical-use-cannabis.html>

Government of Canada. (May 2018) EDN54 General Overview of the Cannabis Excise Stamps. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/publications/edn54/general-overview-cannabis-excise-stamps.html>

Province of B.C. B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch. (2018) BC Cannabis Stores. What is the equivalency for products other than dried cannabis. Retrieved from <https://www.bccannabisstores.com/pages/fags>

8. Keywords

cannabis, medical cannabis, licensed producer

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR CANNABIS

The labelling requirements for cannabis set apart legal supply from non legal supply. As per the Cannabis Regulations, the following information must be included on the label that is applied to any container in which a cannabis product is packaged:

- (a) the name, telephone number and email address of the holder of a licence for processing that manufactured the product;
- (b) the class of cannabis set out in Schedule 4 to the Act to which the cannabis that is in the immediate container belongs;
- (c) in respect of the product
 - (i) the brand name,
 - (ii) the lot number, preceded by one of the following designations: “Lot number”; “Lot no.”, “Lot”, “(L)”
 - (iii) the recommended storage conditions,
 - (iv) the packaging date, and
 - (v) Either the expiry date in accordance with subsection (2), or a statement that no expiry date has been determined;
- (d) the warning “KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN / TENIR HORS DE LA PORTÉE DES ENFANTS”;
- (e) a health warning message set out in the document entitled *Cannabis Health Warning Messages*, as amended from time to time and published by the Government of Canada on its website,
The health warning messages referred to in paragraph (1)(e) must be displayed in rotation on each type of container of each brand name of the cannabis product that is packaged in a year, so that each health warning message is displayed, to the extent possible, on equal numbers of containers of that product.
- (f) in the case of a cannabis product that contains THC in a concentration greater than 10 µg/g, the standardized cannabis symbol that must be obtained from the Minister in the form of an electronic file.

Legal cannabis products have an "excise stamp" on the package. The stamp has security features to prevent forgery, just like passports and banknotes.

Cannabis oil — discrete unit

126 In the case of cannabis oil — or a cannabis accessory that contains cannabis oil — that is in discrete units, the label of any container in which the cannabis product is packaged must also include the following information:

- (a) the net weight, in grams, and net volume, in millilitres, of cannabis oil;
- (b) the number of units;
- (c) the net weight, in grams, and net volume, in millilitres, of cannabis oil in each unit;
- (d) the quantity of THC, in milligrams, in each unit preceded by “THC per unit”;
- (e) the quantity of THC, in milligrams, that each unit could yield, taking into account the potential to convert THCA into THC, preceded by “Total THC per unit”;
- (f) the quantity of CBD, in milligrams, in each unit, preceded by “CBD per unit”;
- (g) the quantity of CBD, in milligrams, that each unit could yield, taking into account the potential to convert CBDA into CBD, preceded by “Total CBD per unit”;
- (h) the carrier oil used;
- (i) the name of any *food allergen*, within the meaning of subsection B.01.010.1(1) of the [Food and Drug Regulations](#), that is contained in the cannabis oil; and

Cannabis oil — not in discrete units

127 In the case of cannabis oil — or a cannabis accessory that contains cannabis oil — that is not in discrete units, the label of any container in which the cannabis product is packaged must also include the following information:

- (a) the net weight, in grams, and net volume, in millilitres, of cannabis oil;
- (b) the concentration of THC, in milligrams per millilitre, in the cannabis oil, preceded by “THC”;
- (c) the concentration of THC, in milligrams per millilitre, that the cannabis oil could yield, taking into account the potential to convert THCA into THC, preceded by “Total THC”;
- (d) the concentration of CBD, in milligrams per millilitre, preceded by “CBD”;
- (e) the concentration of CBD, in milligrams per millilitre, that the cannabis oil could yield, taking into account the potential to convert CBDA into CBD, preceded by “Total CBD”;
- (f) the carrier oil used;
- (g) the name of any *food allergen*, within the meaning of subsection B.01.010.1(1) of the [Food and Drug Regulations](#), that is contained in the cannabis oil; and

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PROCEDURES FOR ACCESSING CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

1. Consult with your health care practitioner
2. Obtain a Medical Document from your health care practitioner
 - See sample [Medical Document](#) available via Health Canada Website

<p>Purchase for a Federally licensed producer</p> <p>3. Choose a federally licensed producer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See list of authorized licensed producers available via Health Canada Website at https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-use-marijuana/licensed-producers/authorized-licensed-producers-medical-purposes.html <p>4. Complete a registration form specific to that licensed producer, as per instructions on licensed producer website</p> <p>5. Mail original medical document to the licensed producer. (Health care practitioner may fax the document via secure fax)</p> <p>6. Order on-line or by telephone from the licensed producer once registration is complete</p> <p>7. Await shipment via Canada Post.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery to an acute care health facility is not permitted - Delivery will be accompanied by a registration document 	OR	<p>Purchase from a provincially licensed retailer</p> <p>3. Submit the medical document to Health Canada via online registration process to obtain a registration certificate, for possession only</p> <p>4. Purchase via provincially licensed retailers (on-line or storefront, where available)</p>
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Note: Due to the time required for registration and receipt of product from federally licensed producers, this process may be more pertinent to patients with longer stays, such as residential care settings.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/getting-cannabis-from-licensed-producer/accessing-from-licensed-producer.html>