



Team Name: Home Care Team Lead: Director - Home Care, Palliative Care & Seniors Approved by: Regional Lead – Community & Continuing Care	Reference Number: CLI.5410.PL.005 Program Area: Home Care Policy Section: Access
Issue Date: July 6, 2021 Review Date: Revision Date:	Subject: Cannabis for Medical Purposes in the Home

Use of pre-printed documents: Users are to refer to the electronic version of this document located on the Southern Health-Santé Sud Health Provider Site to ensure the most current document is consulted.

POLICY SUBJECT:

Cannabis for Medical Purposes in the Home

PURPOSE:

To support Southern Health-Santé Sud Cannabis for Medical Purposes Policy (CLI.6010.PL.005), Home Care recognizes that additional guidance regarding Medical Cannabis administration to support clients in their use of Cannabis in the home/community setting is required to:

- Clearly define the role and responsibilities of the Direct Service Staff-Home Care regarding medical cannabis and service delivery in the client’s home/community setting.
- Communicate clearly to the Client requirements for a safe work environment.

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE:

Executive Limitations (EL-02) Treatment of Clients
 Executive Limitations (EL-03) Treatment of Staff

POLICY:

- Clients are permitted to initiate use or continue use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes if approved through the established framework outlined in the Health Canada Cannabis Regulations.
- Cannabis for Medical Purposes is included on the Best Possible Medication History (BPMH).
- The Case Coordinator/Direct Service Nurse ensure that the client is an authorized user of Cannabis for Medical Purposes.
- Cannabis for Medical Purposes requires an order by a prescriber. Orders include a dose (e.g. a total daily dose in grams for dried cannabis or an amount of drops of cannabis oil), dosage form, frequency, and route.

- All liabilities and responsibilities for use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes are the responsibility of the client.
- Clients or designated responsible adult are encouraged to self-administer medical cannabis.

DEFINITIONS:

Authorized User: A person who has proof of authorization to possess Cannabis for Medical Purposes with a prescriber's order.

Designated responsible adult: One or more adults responsible for the care of the client. For example, a spouse, parent, guardian, or other family member or close friend. This person must be named on the Registration Document or Registration Certificate.

Direct Service Staff: A Home Care Attendant (HCA), Direct Service Nurse (DSN) or any employee of Southern Health-Santé Sud - Home Care.

Medical Cannabis: Refers to the use of the *Cannabis* plant as a prescriber-recommended therapy; also referred to as cannabis for medical purposes. This usage requires prescriber authorization, and distribution is done within a framework defined by federal laws.

Cannabis: Refers to any part of the plant, except the roots or mature stalk without any leaf, flowers, or seeds, as defined by the Cannabis Act. Cannabis is a psychoactive herb derived from the flowering tops of the plant *Cannabis sativa*, *Cannabis indica*, or hybrids derived from these plants.

Medical Document authorizing the use of cannabis for medical purposes: Also referred to as the Medical Document. Health Canada uses this term to denote the prescription-like form that the prescriber completes and signs to authorize client's access to dried cannabis or cannabis oil from a holder of a license or from alternate sources such as licensed retailers of non-medical cannabis, or to apply to grow their own cannabis.

Marijuana: Street term for cannabis.

Joint: Cannabis rolled in paper to be smoked.

Registration Certificate: A Certificate *issued by Health Canada* authorizing a client or designated person to grow their own *Cannabis* for medical purposes. The client may instead indicate a preference to obtain Cannabis for Medical Purposes from another legal source, such as a provincial retailer licensed to sell cannabis for non-medical purposes. This certificate includes:

- Name, surname, date of birth, and home address of the registered person.
- Address where *Cannabis* will be cultivated, if applicable.
- If applicable, name, surname, date of birth, and home address of for the designated person.
- Given name, surname, and date of birth of any responsible adults.

- Unique registration number.
- Name of the healthcare practitioner who provided the Medical Document.
- Daily quantity of dried cannabis in grams.
- Maximum quantity of dried cannabis, in grams, that the registered person is authorized to possess.
- Effective date of registration.
- Expiry date of registration (based on date of registration).
- Maximum number of plants permitted indoors and/or outdoors.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:

Administration of Cannabis for Medical Purposes:

- Clients who smoke or vaporize medical cannabis are responsible for self-administration of their doses. Healthcare professionals are not authorized to assist clients with smoking or vaporizing actions.
- Direct Service Nurse may administer oral dosage forms of medical cannabis to client.
- Direct Service Nurse may administer topical dosage forms of medical cannabis, such as oil or creams, to client.
- Cannabis for Medical Purposes must:
 - either come from a Holder of a License to sell medical cannabis,
 - come from a Client that is authorized to produce for their own for medical purposes (indicated on Registration Certificate from Health Canada), or
 - come from a designated person authorized to produce for that Client’s medical purposes (indicated on Registration Certificate from Health Canada).
- Cannabis for Medical Purposes must be clearly identified and labeled by the license holder as per legal requirements.
- All other cannabis that cannot be identified from those sources is considered to be for recreational use.

Guidelines for Manitoba Nurses administering Cannabis for medical purposes:

- Manitoba’s three nursing regulatory colleges, College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba, College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba and Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba interpret that nurses may administer, or assist with the administration of, legally obtained cannabis that has been medically authorized for a client in a community care setting.
- Despite the practice setting, before administering cannabis to any client, the nurse must:
 - understand and abide by applicable organizational policies and procedures,
 - confirm that client has agreed to use cannabis,
 - confirm that the client has a written order that authorizes the client’s use medical cannabis,
 - confirm that the nurse has the knowledge, skill and judgment necessary to administer medical cannabis, and
 - apply the principles for safe medication practices in the administration of cannabis, including but not limited to: right drug, right dose, right patient, right route, and right time.

- Regardless of a nurses' personal stance on cannabis use, they must continue to engage in discussions and be open to having these conversations with their clients. It is the responsibility of all nurses to be well informed, ask questions and consult with their employer and/or regulatory nursing authority when they are unsure of what to do.
- Nurses who care for clients who use cannabis should continue to:
 - provide a thorough nursing assessment,
 - evaluate the impact of cannabis,
 - have discussions about prescribed, non-prescribed and illicit drug use,
 - identify, manage and appropriately communicate potential adverse reactions, and
 - accurately document assessments, interventions, and outcomes related to cannabis use.

PROCEDURE:

Clients who have a Registration Certificate for Cannabis for Medical purposes.

The Case Coordinator/Direct Service Nurse will:

1. Document use of medical cannabis in the client record including the Best Possible Medication History (BPMH).
2. Verify client has a Registration Certificate issued by Health Canada.
3. Confirm Physician/Prescriber order for medical cannabis.
4. Review Home Care – Smoking Cannabis for Medical Purposes Information Sheet (CLI.5410.PL.005.SD.01).
 - 4.1. Advise client that the Direct Service Staff will not assist client in rolling joints or baking medical cannabis into any food.
 - 4.2. Advise client that the Direct Service Staff will not assist client to maintain medical cannabis plants.
 - 4.3. Advise client that Cannabis for Medical Purposes will not be smoked in the presence of Direct Service Staff.
5. Direct Service Nurse administers oral dosage (oils or capsules) or topical forms (oil or cream) of Cannabis for Medical Purposes.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

[CLI.5410.PL.005.SD.01](#) Home Care – Smoking - Cannabis for Medical Purposes

REFERENCES:

CLI.6010.PL.023 Cannabis for Medical Purposes

CRNM Medical Cannabis: *Guidelines for Manitoba Nurses (Updated: February 2019)*