



### **OSHP Position Statement on Medical Cannabis**

This document summarized Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacy's position on medical cannabis.

Contact:

Division Director, Professional Affairs

[professional@ohioshp.org](mailto:professional@ohioshp.org)

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The Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacy (OSHP) encourages continued research regarding the efficacy, safety, and appropriateness of the use, dosage, and administration of medical cannabis and its components. More specifically, OSHP advocates for further research to support the development of standardized formulations and dosages that ensure consistent potency and quality to track safety and efficacy for the patients.

Based on findings of ongoing research on clinical impact, OSHP would support to expand through greater access, legislative efforts, and innovative administration. With this, OSHP firmly believes that pharmacists play a vital role in the provision of medical cannabis. OSHP advocates that pharmacists be incorporated at all dispensaries and that the pharmacist serves as a part of the initial medication history and consultation interview to assess for possible drug-drug interactions and provide education on the administration and dosing of medical cannabis products.<sup>1</sup> In these roles, pharmacists should have access to appropriate technology to access current medication lists, check for drug-drug interactions, and assess laboratory values (if available). By incorporating pharmacists into dispensaries, patients will benefit from personalized guidance and education which ensures safe and effective use of medical cannabis. Furthermore, OSHP supports the establishment of workflow to allow for regular pharmacist review of patients' progress through ensuring ongoing monitoring, assessing treatment effectiveness, and making necessary adjustments to optimize therapeutic outcomes.

Further, OSHP advocates for the alignment of federal and state regulations to eliminate barriers to medical cannabis research. Given there is not currently a standardized medical cannabis product subject to the regulations and standards which regulate prescription drug products, OSHP advocates for the development of processes to ensure standard formulations for consistency of medical cannabis products.

OSHP encourages pharmacists to be involved in the development of health-system policies and procedures related to contemporary medical cannabis regulations. OSHP also encourages evaluation of state and federal laws to avoid reimbursement penalties and confusion for inpatient use of medical cannabis.

OSHP recognizes the importance of equitable access to medical cannabis for patients, including those who may face financial barriers. OSHP advocates for comprehensive insurance coverage and other reimbursement mechanisms that align with existing reimbursement models for traditional pharmaceuticals.

OSHP advocates for current and future legislative actions to permit healthcare reimbursement of medical marijuana products. OSHP strongly advocates for the expansion of opportunities for licensed PAs, licensed NPs, licensed CNSs, CRNAs, licensed Naturopathic Physicians, and pharmacists with DEA privileges/licensure to recommend medical cannabis and apply for a CTR license.<sup>2</sup> This approach aligns with other states and enhances patient access to care, promotes interprofessional collaboration, addresses workforce shortages, and ensures comprehensive patient safety and education. Recognizing the conflict between State and Federal law with regards to cannabis use, OSHP advocates for legislation to protect healthcare personnel who provide care to patients using medical cannabis under the Ohio Legislation.



OSHP supports out-of-state medical cannabis reciprocity, allowing patients with valid medical cannabis registry identification cards from other states to purchase medical cannabis in Ohio.<sup>3,4</sup> These initiatives prioritize patient-centered care, enhance continuity of treatment, promote patient autonomy, and help ensure the safety and quality of medical cannabis products.

Lastly, OSHP advocates for the respect of the rights and autonomy of the patient for appropriate and legal medical cannabis use under the Ohio State Law. Recognizing the pharmacist's drug knowledge and place in the interprofessional medical team, OSHP advocates for education that prepares pharmacists to discuss therapeutic and legal information surrounding medical cannabis use. OSHP also recommends pharmacist involvement in the care of patients using medical cannabis where that involvement is legal (e.g. patient counseling). OSHP encourages education to pharmacists and student pharmacists to prepare them for the legal and therapeutic discussions regarding the appropriate use of medical cannabis which may be expected for patient care.



#### References:

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### **Contributing Authors**

Megan Adelman, PharmD, BCGP, BCPS, CDCES

Cindy King, PharmD, BCACP

Lauren Perry, PharmD

Dharti Patel, PharmD Candidate 2024

Syam Kavuru, PharmD Candidate 2024

### **We would like to thank the following members for serving as peer reviewers:**

Daniel Arendt, PharmD

Joseph Marchiano, PharmD, BCPS