

Policy for Prescribing Medical Cannabis to Minors and Adults under 25

Purpose

This policy sets out the ethical and legal rules for prescribing medical cannabis to minors and adults under 25.

All Individuals Under 25

Individuals under 25 years of age are permitted to be treated legally in the province of Ontario and BC, in accordance with all the existing rules and regulations of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the “College”) regarding medical cannabis prescribing. However, particular caution in this group must be taken. The College of Family Physicians of Canada’s (the “CFPC”), as the physician’s educational body, does have a policy statement which recommends against prescribing medical cannabis to individuals under 25. In the circumstances clear, indicia and a detailed rationale for the decision to prescribe medical cannabis must be clearly stated in the medical record. The CFPC’s policy is an ethical guide it is at the discretion of the physician whether or not to follow it.

All patients under 25 must be referred to the physician by a family doctor or specialist. No prescriptions can be provided to patients under 25 who have not been referred by another doctor.

The prescribing physician must be satisfied that all conventional therapeutic options, have been attempted and have failed to alleviate the patient’s symptoms.

Patients Under 18

Whether or not a minor, a person under the age of 18, is a candidate for treatment with medical cannabis is a medical decision to be determined by the prescribing physician. Although there is no direct prohibition in Ontario or BC against prescribing medical cannabis to patients under 25, please note that ***no prescription for medical cannabis shall be issued in the absence of written consent*** to this form of treatment ***from the minor’s parent or guardian*** and a referral from the minor’s own family or treating physician.

A copy of the parental consent is attached at the back of this policy.

Supportive evidence

In ensuring that a clear indication is present in the medical record as well as the prescribers rationale the following items should be included in the patient chart:

- Physician referral note;
- Patient’s medical chart showing referring physician’s clinical notes; and/or
- Patient’s medication history obtained from their chart or a pharmacy record and the patient’s contemporaneous self-assessment of the ability of the conventional therapies alleviating the patient’s symptoms
- Prescribing physician’s rationale

Parental Consent for Medical Marijuana

I _____ am the parent/guardian of _____ and I am fully informed and aware that my son/daughter has consulted with Dr. _____ for the purpose of being evaluated as a possible candidate for access to medical marijuana.

It has been explained to me that prescribing medical marijuana to individuals under the age of 25 years is not recommended by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and BC require young patients to have tried conventional therapeutic options which have failed to alleviate their symptoms before being prescribed medical marijuana.

I am satisfied that my son/daughter has tried conventional therapies without success and I am consenting to Dr. _____ prescribing this drug and believe that my child is mature enough to understand and abide by the precautions that the Doctor has outlined.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Witness Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Witness Name (please print)

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

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