

# Medical Marijuana

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## Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC)

Strongly in opposes the proposed [Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations](#).

FMRAC position summary (last updated June 2013):

- The lack of evidence to support the use of marihuana for medical purposes, indicated by Health Canada's own decision not to approve dried marihuana as a therapeutic product, continues to be a significant and grave concern:
  - this lack of evidence signifies that this is not a medical intervention.
  - this lack of evidence makes it inappropriate for Health Canada to put physicians in the role of gatekeeper for access to marihuana for medical purposes, and would seem to indicate an abdication of responsibility on the part of Health Canada, as physicians do not have the professional authority to do this.

Physicians should adhere to the Canadian Medical Association's [Code of Ethics](#) and can access legal advice from the [Canadian Medical Protective Association](#) should they have any questions or concerns.

## Alberta

<http://www.cpsa.ab.ca/Libraries/standards-of-practice/marihuana-for-medical-purposes.pdf?sfvrsn=6>

*Notes:* Physicians may prescribe MM if there are no other conventional treatments, the patient is not at risk of addiction. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections in the [Alberta Health Professions Act](#).

*Last updated April of 2014. A future review has not yet been scheduled.*

## British Columbia

<https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/PSG-Marijuana-for-Medical-Purposes.pdf>

*Notes:* Physicians may prescribe MM if there are no other conventional treatments, the patient is not at risk of addiction and the physician understands they could be liable for undesired effects. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections in the [British Columbia Health Professions Act](#).

*Last updated April of 2014. A future review has not yet been scheduled.*

## Manitoba

<http://cpsm.mb.ca/cjj39alckF30a/wp-content/uploads/st187.pdf>

*Notes:* Physicians may prescribe MM if there are no other conventional treatments, the patient is not at risk of addiction and the physician understands they could be liable for undesired effects. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections of the [Manitoba Medical Act](#).

*Last updated March of 2014. A future review has not yet been scheduled.*

## **New Brunswick**

<http://www.cpsnb.org/english/Guidelines/MedicalMarijuana.htm>

*Notes:* Physicians may prescribe MM if there are no other conventional treatments, the patient is not at risk of addiction and the physician understands they could be liable for undesired effects. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections of the [New Brunswick Medical Act](#).

*Last updated in April of 2014 and no new guidelines are in the works.*

## **Newfoundland and Labrador**

<http://cpsnl.ca/userfiles/file/CPSNL%20%20Medical%20Marihuana%20%20March%202014%20rev%2010.pdf>

*Notes:* Physicians may prescribe MM if there are no other conventional treatments and the patient is not at risk of addiction. However, the college strongly discourages this. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections of the [Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Act](#).

*Last updated March 2014. A future review has not yet been scheduled.*

## **Nova Scotia**

[http://cpsns.ns.ca/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core\\_Download&EntryId=65&PortalId=0&TabId=180](http://cpsns.ns.ca/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=65&PortalId=0&TabId=180)

*Notes:* Physicians may prescribe MM as long as the decision to do so is informed by strong clinical evidence. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections of the [Nova Scotia Medical Act](#).

*Last updated in October of 2012 and is scheduled for review in 2017.*

## **Northwest Territories**

*Notes: No guidelines or website available.*

## **Nunavut**

*Notes: No guidelines or website available.*

## **Ontario**

[http://www.cpsso.on.ca/cpsso/media/uploadedfiles/policies/policies/policyitems/medical-marijuana\(1\).pdf](http://www.cpsso.on.ca/cpsso/media/uploadedfiles/policies/policies/policyitems/medical-marijuana(1).pdf)

*Notes:* As of 2006, physicians may prescribe MM so long as it's part of end-of-life treatment or to alleviate symptoms of a serious condition. It is recommended that the physician do so with caution. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections of the [Ontario Medicine Act](#).

*This was most recently reviewed in 2006. The policy is currently in the process of being updated. Preliminary consultations have now closed (as of February 2014), however the policy is not available outside the college as of yet.*

## Prince Edward Island

<http://cpspei.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Marijuana-Prescribing-revised-May-1313-revised-April-314-approved-MAY-26142.pdf>

*Notes:* Physicians may prescribe MM if there are no other conventional treatments, the patient is not at risk of addiction and the patient is a permanent resident of PEI. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections of the [Prince Edward Island Medical Act](#). Prince Edward Island is the only province that explicitly states that telemedicine may not be used to prescribe MM.

*Last updated May 2014, a future review has not yet been scheduled.*

## Quebec

<http://www.cmq.org/en/MedecinsMembres/DossierMembreFormulaires/~//media/Files/Cannabis/Guidelines-prescription-cannabis.pdf?61420>

*Notes:* Physicians may only prescribe MM in a research framework and if all conventional treatments have been ruled out. It is also recommended that physicians review relevant sections of the [Quebec Medical Act](#).

*Last updated April 2014. A future review has not yet been scheduled.*

## Saskatchewan

*Notes:* Physicians should avoid prescribing MM as they do not know the pharmacology of this substance. However, if physicians do so, they should be aware of the provincial [regulations and requirements](#). It is recommended that physicians review relevant sections of the Saskatchewan [Medical Profession Act](#).

*Last updated in the spring of 2014. A future review has not yet been scheduled.*

## Yukon

*Notes: No guidelines available.*