

New “Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations”: **WHAT DO DOCTORS NEED TO KNOW?**

On April 1, 2014, Health Canada’s new regulations governing the use of marijuana for medical purposes come into full force

This means:

- Patients will only be able to purchase marijuana used for medical purposes through licensed producers
- To acquire marijuana for medical purposes, a patient will need a medical document signed by an authorized health care practitioner
- Patients are no longer identified by condition, therefore there is no longer a requirement for authorization from a specialist

This does not mean:

- Patients will need new medical documents on April 1; patients may use the authorization issued under the old regulations to register with a licensed producer
- Expanded clinical indications for the medical use of marijuana
- Expanded access to marijuana for medical purposes

What this means for physicians:

- You are not obligated to authorize the use of marijuana by patients
- The medical conditions and symptoms under which health care practitioners can support the use of marijuana for medical purposes have not changed
- You may be asked questions by your patients about the program changes

The CMA position has not changed:

The CMA still believes there is insufficient scientific evidence available to support the use of marijuana for clinical purposes. It also believes there is insufficient evidence on clinical risks and benefits, including the proper dosage of marijuana to be used, and on the potential interactions between this drug and other medications. **The CMA will continue to urge that Health Canada support the development of rigorous research on the effects, both positive and adverse, that the use of marijuana for medical purposes will have.**

For more information and resources, visit:
cma.ca/marijuana