

PHARMACY QI

Practical Tips for Quality Improvement

January 2019

Medical Cannabis FAQ

IS CANNABIS A NARCOTIC/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE?

Effective October 17, 2018, Cannabis (medical and recreational) is no longer considered a controlled substance and is regulated under the Cannabis Act. Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR) is now available under Part 14 of the Cannabis Regulations.

HOW CAN RESIDENTS ACCESS MEDICAL CANNABIS?

1. Resident or Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) consults with his/her healthcare practitioner and obtains a medical document. *(Refer to your local regulations for healthcare practitioners, i.e., Physician/Nurse Practitioner, authorized to prescribe medical cannabis.)*

A sample of the medical document is available from Health Canada at:

https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/migration/hc-sc/dhp-mps/alt_formats/pdf/marihuana/info/med-eng.pdf

2. Resident/SDM registers and orders cannabis from a licensed producer (LP). A list of Licensed Producers (LPs) is available from Health Canada at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/licensed-producers/authorized-licensed-producers-medical-purposes.html#a1>

3. Resident/SDM arranges for shipping of the cannabis, indicating the address where the cannabis should be shipped.

DO PHARMACIES PROVIDE MEDICAL CANNABIS?

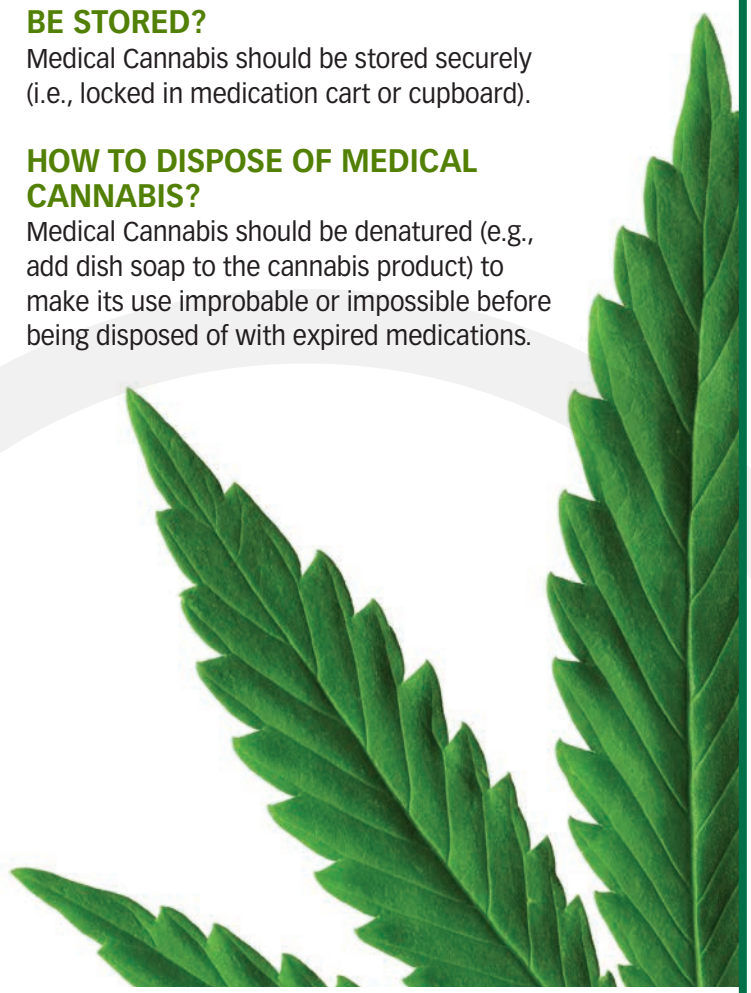
Medical Cannabis is only available via mail order from Licensed Producers in Canada and is not supplied by pharmacies. Pharmacy will only provide synthetic cannabinoid prescription medications, e.g., Cesamet® (Nabilone), Sativex®.

HOW SHOULD MEDICAL CANNABIS BE STORED?

Medical Cannabis should be stored securely (i.e., locked in medication cart or cupboard).

HOW TO DISPOSE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS?

Medical Cannabis should be denatured (e.g., add dish soap to the cannabis product) to make its use improbable or impossible before being disposed of with expired medications.



References:

- Government of Canada, Justice Laws Website. Cannabis Regulations, SOR/2018-144, current to 2018-11-08 and last amended on 2018-10-17. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-144/>. Accessed November 29, 2018.
- Government of Canada, Justice Laws Website. Controlled Drugs and Substances Act – Act current to 2018-11-08 and last amended on 2018-10-17. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-38.8/>. Accessed November 29, 2018.
- Medical Pharmacies Policy and Procedure Manual – Policy 10-11.



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