

# PHARMACY QI

Practical Tips for Quality Improvement

May 2017

## MARIJUANA/CANNABIS FAQ

### Who can possess marijuana/cannabis?

According to the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR), ONLY the resident (or responsible party) may possess marijuana/cannabis for their own medical purposes.

### How can a resident (or responsible party) obtain marijuana/cannabis?

Residents who would like to use marijuana for medical reasons will need to follow these steps:

- 1 Consult with their healthcare practitioner (i.e., physician or nurse practitioner).
- 2 Obtain a medical document from their healthcare practitioner.
- 3 Register and order from a licensed producer.
- 4 Arrange secure shipping and storage of the marijuana.



### Do pharmacies provide marijuana/cannabis?

Marijuana is not yet an approved drug or medicine in Canada and is not supplied by pharmacies. Pharmacy will only provide cannabinoid prescription medications, e.g., Cesamet®, Sativex®. A complete list of licensed marijuana producers can be found on the Health Canada website.



### How should marijuana/cannabis be stored?

The marijuana must be kept in the possession of the authorized person (i.e., double locked in the resident's room). The resident (or responsible party) cannot possess greater than 30-day supply or equivalent of marijuana/cannabis. Follow the supplier's directions regarding proper storage conditions, e.g., temperature, moisture.



### How do you dispose of marijuana/cannabis?

Marijuana has to be rendered unusable before it can be disposed of in the regular garbage. To render it unusable, the person in possession can mix the marijuana with another external substance (e.g., cream, lotion, petroleum jelly, shampoo, dish soap, yard waste/soil, or kitty litter), so the resulting mixture is at least fifty percent non-marijuana waste and its consumption is rendered impossible or improbable.

#### References:

- Government of Canada. Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR) April 1, 2017.
- Medical Pharmacies Policy and Procedure Manual, Policy 10-11.
- Washington State Legislature, Marijuana waste disposal—Liquids and solids (WAC 314-55-097).