

Topic of the month:

Medical Cannabis FAQ

IS CANNABIS CONSIDERED A NARCOTIC/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE?

Effective *October 17, 2018* Cannabis (medical and recreational) is no longer considered a controlled substance and is regulated under the federal Cannabis Act.

HOW CAN I ACCESS MEDICAL CANNABIS?



Step 1: Consult with your doctor if you are interested in using Cannabis for medical purposes. Your doctor will need to fill out an authorization form called “The Medical Document”. 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



Step 2: Register and order 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>



Step 3: Arrange for shipping of the cannabis indicating the address where you would like the cannabis to 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®.

IS THERE HARM IN USING BOTH RECREATIONAL AND MEDICAL CANNABIS AT THE SAME TIME?

Using recreational cannabis concurrently with medical cannabis may result in overdose and is not recommended. Let your doctor know if you are using recreational cannabis and would like to switch to medical cannabis.

Is it true that Medical Cannabis doesn't have side effects?

Medical Cannabis with higher levels of CBD* than THC** is non-psychoactive. This means it will not make you high, however, it can still cause some side effects e.g. dizziness, drowsiness and mood changes.

*CBD: cannabidiol, **THC: 9-delta-tetrahydrocannabinol



DIZZINESS



DROWSINESS



**MOOD
CHANGES**

References:

1. Cannabis Regulations, SOR/2018-144, current to 2018-10-24 and last amended on 2018-10-17, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-144/>
2. Controlled Drugs and Substances Act - Act current to 2018-10-24 and last amended on 2018-10-17 <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-38.8/>
3. Medical Cannabis Patient Booklet – RxFiles: <http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Cannabis-Medical-Patient-Booklet.pdf>