

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA, USE OF - ADULT**

System-wide - A formal statement of values, intents (policy), and expectations (procedure) that applies to every employee throughout the System.

Locator Number

Multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary - A formal statement of values, intents (policy) and expectations (procedure) that applies to more than one discipline and is usually of a clinical nature. Check below all areas to which this applies.

Chapter:

TAB:

Departmental - A formal statement of values, intents (policy), and expectations (procedure) exclusive to a particular department or group of people within a department at one or multiple locations that does not impact any other area.

Policy#:

**DISCIPLINES/LOCATIONS TO WHICH THIS INTERDISCIPLINARY POLICY APPLIES:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Health Information Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care Hospital Nursing
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Radiology	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Physician Offices
<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Physician Offices
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	—	—

Date Originated:	Reviewed/No Revision:	Date Revised:	Next Review Date:

Author(s):

Reviewed by:	Date:
Clinical Practice Council:	Date:
Clinical Education Council Education Plan Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Education Completed Date:
Approved by Policy Administrator:	Date:
As Needed: Medical Director:	Date:

Purpose: To provide direction and guidance for physicians, nurses, and pharmacists when a patient requests to use their medical marijuana while they are in the hospital.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Caregiver - an individual who has agreed in writing to assist with the qualified patient's use of marijuana, They must be 21 years of age or older, a resident of the state, be registered with the state as a caregiver and carry a caregiver identification card.

Chronic nonmalignant pain - pain that is caused by a qualifying medical condition or that originates from a qualifying medical condition and persists beyond the usual course of the qualifying medical condition.

Marijuana - all parts of any plant of the genus cannabis, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin, including low THC cannabis, which are dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center for medical use by a qualified patient.

Marijuana delivery device - an object used, intended for use, or designed for use in preparing, storing, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing marijuana into the human body, and which is dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center for medical use by a qualified patient.

Physician certification - a qualified physician's authorization for a qualified patient to review marijuana and a marijuana delivery device from a medical marijuana treatment center.

Qualified physician - a person who holds an active license as a physician under Chapter 458 or an osteopathic physician under Chapter 459 and is in compliance with the physician education requirements (successfully completed a 2 hour course and subsequent examination that encompasses the requirements and applicable rules of the statute).

Qualified patient - a resident of Florida who has been added to the medial marijuana use registry by a "qualified physician" to receive marijuana or a marijuana delivery device for a medical use and who has a qualified patient identification card.

Qualified medical conditions:

Cancer  
Epilepsy  
Glaucoma  
Positive Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)  
Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)  
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)  
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)  
Crohn's disease  
Parkinson's disease  
Multiple sclerosis

And medical conditions of the same kind or class or comparable to those enumerated above.

A terminal condition diagnosed by a physician other than the qualified physician issuing the certification.

Chronic nonmalignant pain.

4. If the patient does not have a current identification card issued by the state of Florida, nursing staff will advise the patient that the use of marijuana will not be allowed while they are in the hospital. If patient persists in using marijuana and they do not have a patient identification card, security and nursing leadership/designee should be notified and should meet with the patient to address this issue. A nursing note shall be placed in the EHR describing what took place and what actions were initiated to alleviate the issue and make the patient comfortable.
5. Nursing staff may not administer medical marijuana. The patient will be responsible for taking their own medical marijuana, unless they need assistance from their registered caregiver.
6. Documentation in a clinical note should be entered by the nurse if they are made aware that the patient has taken or used their medical marijuana. Patient should be advised to notify the nurse when they take their medical marijuana for proper medical documentation (which furthers research on the subject).
7. The patient or their caregiver will have sole responsibility for possessing and securing their supply of medical marijuana and any delivery device associated with its use. Staff may not take possession of the marijuana or delivery devices and patients should be encouraged to send the supply home, if possible.
8. The hospital will not replace or compensate for any lost or stolen medical marijuana or marijuana delivery device.

Related Policies:

M03 03 554 Medical Marijuana, Use of - Pediatric

References:

Fla.State.s381.96

**DEFINITIONS:**

Smoking - burning or igniting a substance or inhaling the smoke.

Terminal condition - a progressive disease or medical or surgical condition that causes significant functional impairment, is not considered by a treating physician to be reversible without the administration of life sustaining procedures, and will result in death within (1) one year after diagnosis if the condition runs its normal course.

Policy:

1. While this institution recognizes that some qualified patients may be taking some form of medical marijuana at home because they have a qualified medical condition, at this time, most hospital based physicians are not qualified under the current law to determine the risks, benefits, and/or drug interactions related to the use of medical marijuana, until they are certified as a qualified physician by the State of Florida and had cannabis education.
2. The hospital is not authorized under Florida law to dispense or administer medical marijuana.
3. While vaping may be allowed for medical use at home, smoking and vaping is prohibited inside and outside of all institution premises, including buildings, grounds, parking lots and within any vehicles when located on any of the premises.
4. Allowable medical marijuana use while in the hospital is limited to oral, topical, nasal sprays, transdermal patches, and edibles.

Procedure:

1. If a patient indicates that they want to take their medical marijuana while in the hospital, nursing staff should verify that the patient has a valid patient identification card issued by the Florida Department of Health and notify the attending physician of the patient's request.
2. The attending physician should meet with the patient to determine the reason for the request and if there are other alternative therapies that could be offered to the patient. The attending physician should advise the patient that they are not qualified by law to determine the risks, benefits and drug interactions related to taking medical marijuana while they are taking other medications prescribed in the hospital and they should contact their qualified physician to seek advice as to the risk and benefits of continuing to use medical marijuana while they are hospitalized.
3. If after speaking with the physician the patient decided to take their medical marijuana while in the hospital, the nursing staff should:
  - a. Obtain a copy of the patient's identification card issued by the Florida Department of Health;
  - b. Obtain a copy of the caregiver's identification card issued by the Florida Department of Health, if the marijuana is to be administered by the patient's registered caregiver. Note: A qualified patient may only have one Caregiver assisting with the use of the medical marijuana; and
  - c. Provide the patient a Medical Marijuana Acknowledgement form (FM#:\_\_\_\_), which explains that the hospital is not authorized to dispense or administer medical marijuana. The form should be signed by the qualified patient or caregiver and scanned into the electronic health record (EHR), along with a copy of the identification cards.
  - d. The patient's identification card, caregiver's identification card, and signed Medical Marijuana Acknowledgement form will be kept in the patient's hard chart and scanned into the EHR at discharge.