

***This policy applies at All Sites**

<u>Title:</u>	Medical Cannabis
<u>Manual:</u>	Clinical
<u>Section:</u>	Pharmacy
<u>Approval Body:</u>	Medical Advisory Committee (MAC)
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<u>Policy Lead:</u>	Drug Evaluation Pharmacist
<u>Policy Owner:</u>	Director, Pharmacy & Medication Management

<u>Key Words:</u>	Medical cannabis, marijuana, complementary alternative therapeutic, self-administration
<u>Cross-References:</u>	Patient's Own Medications policy, Medication Administration policy, Smoke Free Workplace policy, Self-Administration of Medications, Formulary System

POLICY:

This policy sets requirements and parameters to facilitate the safe, therapeutic use of medical cannabis at Mackenzie Health (MH).

DEFINITIONS:

Drug Identification Number (DIN): Is a computer-generated eight-digit number assigned by Health Canada to a drug product prior to being marketed in Canada. It uniquely identifies all drug products sold in a dosage form in Canada and is located on the label of prescription and over-the-counter drug products that have been evaluated and authorized for sale in Canada.

Licensed Producer: Licensed by Health Canada, under the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations to produce and sell cannabis to eligible persons.

Medical Document: "Medical Document Authorizing the use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes" provided by a healthcare practitioner, which authorizes the use of medical cannabis/marijuana for medical purposes. The document must include:

- the practitioner's given name, surname, profession, business address and telephone number, the province in which they are authorized to practice their profession and the number assigned by the province to that authorization and, if applicable, their facsimile number and email address;

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- the person's given name, surname, and date of birth;
- the address of the location at which the person consulted with the practitioner;
- the daily quantity of dried marijuana, expressed in grams, that the practitioner authorizes for the person; and
- the period of use, expressed as days, weeks, or months, which must not exceed one year
- must be signed and dated by the health care practitioner

Medical Cannabis: refers to the use of cannabis/marijuana/marihuana under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner permitted to prescribe cannabis as a treatment modality for a medical condition.

Medication: a drug, as defined by the Food and Drugs Act and assigned a Drug Identification Number (DIN) or Natural Product Number (NPN) by Health Canada.

Natural Product Number (NPN): Natural Product Number (NPN) is an eight (8) digit numerical code assigned to each natural health product approved to be marketed under the Natural Health Products Regulations.

PROCEDURE:

Prescribing and Verification of Supply

1. In compliance with MH's Smoke Free Workplace policy, only topical or ingestible forms of medical cannabis that can be verified may be used for therapeutic purposes. Inhaled forms are strictly prohibited.
2. Patients will always be required to provide their own supply of medical cannabis at Mackenzie Health as it will not be procured by Mackenzie Health staff.
3. The MRP should order medical cannabis in accordance with the patient's previous prescription (continuation of therapy).
4. In the case of a new prescription, the most responsible provider (MRP) should order medical cannabis in accordance with Health Canada's guidelines for ordering medical cannabis.
5. Given the restricted legal access to medical cannabis, the prescriber must verify that the patient has valid proof of authorization in the form of:
 - a. Medical document from authorized healthcare practitioner.
OR
 - b. Client label/document from a Health Canada authorized supplier which includes the information otherwise specified in the medical document.
OR

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- c. Registration certificate issued by Health Canada providing proof that the patient may legally produce a limited amount of marijuana for medical purposes.
6. The total quantity of medical cannabis prescribed in hospital must not exceed the amount authorized for that individual, i.e., up to a maximum of the equivalent of 150 grams of dried marijuana as per the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR).
7. The MRP will enter the order for medical cannabis in the electronic medical record as “patient’s own supply” and preferably, for self-administration by the patient.
8. Once the MRP enters an order to use patient’s own supply in the electronic medical record, Pharmacy will verify and validate the medical cannabis based on the Health Canada labelling and affix a “Mackenzie Health patient’s own supply” of medical cannabis label to facilitate barcode medication administration, as per the procedure in the patient’s own medications policy.

Storage and Documentation

9. Medical cannabis will be stored in the patient care area’s automated dispensing cabinet, according to the procedures described in the patient’s own medications policy. It should not be stored at the patient’s bedside.
10. Given the nature of cannabis, additional measures will be implemented to ensure the security of the patient’s own supply of cannabis at each administration.
 - a. The labelled patient’s supply will be placed in a tamper-proof package, sealed, and signed by the patient to indicate that they have secured the contents. Tamper-proof packages are procured by patient care units.
 - b. The sealed package will be stored in the medical cannabis pocket of the automated dispensing cabinet.
 - c. At the next dosing time, the nurse will retrieve the sealed package, show the patient that it was still sealed and then proceed to remove the dose, in the presence of the patient.
 - d. The supply should be sealed and signed again, as per step 10a above.
 - e. Any previously signed slips or packages from previous doses can be discarded in a confidential bin designated for shredding or destruction.
11. Documentation of administration for medical cannabis will occur on the electronic medication administration record (MAR), following the procedures set out in the Mackenzie Health medication administration and self-administration policies and procedures, with barcode scanning of the patient’s own supply label.

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APPENDICES: N/A

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