

# Ask a Practice Advisor

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## Can Registered Nurses (RNs) in Saskatchewan assist a client with taking medical marijuana?

[Section 276 of the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations](#) enables health care providers, including nurses to assist in the administration of fresh or dried marijuana or cannabis oil to a person under treatment as an in-patient or out-patient.

RNs need to utilize the [principles of Medication Management](#) to provide safe client care.

### What legislation is related to medical marijuana?

- Health Canada introduced the [Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations \(ACMPR\)](#) on August 24, 2016. This federal legislation replaces the repealed *Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR)*.
- Medical Marijuana is a controlled substance under the federal [Controlled Drugs and Substance Act](#) and the [Narcotic Control Regulations](#).
- Health Canada has provided information on cannabis for medical purposes and interpretation the [New Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations](#).
- Health Canada's [New Classes of Practitioner Regulations](#) gives federal authority for nurse practitioners to prescribe medical marijuana; however Saskatchewan nurse practitioners do not have provincial authority to prescribe.

### What factors should RNs considered prior to assisting a client with medical marijuana?

- Is there regional health authority/agency/employee policy to support assisting?
- Do you have knowledge about the medication and the competence to safely assist a client?
- Do you need to consult with any other members of the health care team prior to administration?
- Does the client have Health Canada documentation issued?

- Is there a valid order from an authorized health care provider?
- Is the medical marijuana appropriately labelled?
- Is there policy to support safe storage?
- Have you included the medical marijuana in the client's medication reconciliation profile?
- Is there policy to support safe discharge of client and their medical marijuana?
- Do you know the expectations of documentation?

### Ethical Considerations for RNs

The use of medical marijuana is an emerging trend, but may have ethical consideration for some nurses and members of the health care team. RNs who experience an ethical dilemma in assisting can make alternative arrangements for another health care provider to assist the client.

It is necessary that RNs and health care teams understand the *ACMPR* legislation and remain in compliance with the legislation, as activities outside of the legislation could be considered illegal activity.

### Where can RNs access additional information about Medical Marijuana?

For more information *ACMPR* please contact Health Canada at 1-866-337-7705

SRNA practice advisors are also available to discuss practice issues and concerns regarding medical marijuana.

To contact the SRNA for practice advice please call 1-800-667-9945 or 306-359-4200 (ask to speak to a practice advisor), or you can email us at [practiceadvice@srna.org](mailto:practiceadvice@srna.org)