

Only Physicians registered with the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta may authorize cannabis for medical purposes in Alberta. Applicable [Standards of Practice \(SOP\)](#) must be met when pursuing this activity, including but not limited to: [Cannabis for Medical Purposes SOP](#); [Informed Consent SOP](#); [Telemedicine SOP](#); and [Prescribing: Drugs with Potential for Misuse or Diversion SOP](#).

STANDARD REQUIREMENTS - CHECKLIST FOR CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES SOP

During initial assessment, including accepting transfer of care from another healthcare provider:

- Other conventional therapies were tried with the patient but found to be ineffective
- Patient risk of addiction was assessed using a standard addiction risk tool
- Patient provided informed consent (in accordance with the [related standard of practice](#))
- Reviewed patient medication history & obtained a patient medication profile using prescription databases (e.g. Netcare/Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN) and Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP))

When authorizing medical cannabis:

- Completed a [Patient Medical Document](#)
- Provided a copy of the [Patient Medical Document](#) to CPSA within 7 days of completion
- Checked compliance with federal regulations including Health Canada's [Information for Health Care Professionals](#)

During stabilization and continuing long-term authorizations:

- Reviewed patient medication history reviewed periodically & at least once every three months
- At each reassessment, the continued benefits and risks of cannabis use were evaluated
- Ongoing care, for underlying condition for which cannabis was being used, was provided

NOTE:

- ❖ Alberta Physicians MAY NOT dispense cannabis to any patient or person OR apply to become a licensed producer.
- ❖ It is expected that any authorization for cannabis will be follow the evidence and sound clinical judgement.
- ❖ The rationale for the authorization [must be documented](#) within the patient record.
- ❖ Other professionals in the patient's circle of care should be notified of the authorization unless the patient expressly refuses (after understanding the risks to them from non-disclosure, such as serious drug interactions).
- ❖ CPSA discourages cannabis authorizations for pediatric patients based on evidence of harm to the developing brain and as per the position of the Canadian Pediatric society (see [Cannabis and Canada's children and youth](#)).