

# Sample Cannabis Policy

---

## BACKGROUND

The Federal Cannabis Act of 2018 allows individuals to cultivate, possess, acquire, and consume cannabis and its by-products. Pharmaceutical cannabinoids for medical purposes are currently approved in Canada for use in chemotherapy-induced nausea/vomiting (nabilone) and spasticity in MS (nabiximols).

## POLICY

Cannabis for non-medical purposes cannot be consumed on site, even if from a legal source. If brought on site, it will be stored and locked until the client is discharged from the service.

Cannabis for medical purposes may be allowed after review by the withdrawal management service (WMS) health care provider.

## PROCEDURE

- Whenever possible, clients currently taking medically authorized cannabis via inhalation will be transitioned to the oral synthetic cannabinoid nabilone during their stay.
- In the rare case that a client cannot be transitioned to nabilone, the use of inhaled cannabis for medical purposes may be permitted if the WMS health care provider deems it to be clinically appropriate and the following criteria are met:
  - The client must provide either a copy of their original authorization or a note from the authorizer to the WMS outlining the medical purpose, form, route, dose, and frequency of use.
  - The medically authorized cannabis must arrive at the facility in unopened packaging.
- Medically authorized cannabis will be kept stored and locked by facility staff throughout the client's stay. It will only be accessible to the client at scheduled times as indicated by their authorization. As-needed or "PRN" dosing will generally not be available to the clients.
- Medically authorized inhaled cannabis shall be consumed in designated areas only and in the presence of staff. Given the nature of the facility, if there are any concerns brought forward by other clients, such as "triggering", the use of smoked medical cannabis may be discontinued, and the client offered nabilone in its place for the duration of their stay.