

2019 HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Proposal for New Business

MPhA House of Delegates

Resolution 19-006

Category: Pharmacy Practice

Title: Clinical Use of Cannabidiol (CBD)

Proposal (Proposed Policy Statement)*:

MPhA supports continued research on the therapeutic uses of cannabidiol (CBD);

To provide education on the therapeutic uses of CBD;

To oppose use of CBD-containing products not following good manufacturing practices (or certified by a body external from the manufacturer);

To advocate for enhanced public education regarding safe use of CBD and the risks of unapproved CBD-containing products.

Background/facts**:

Following a student-led conversation on Medical Cannabis use in Minnesota in early April, student fellows of the CLHC find it imperative that pharmacists lead the charge in the expansion of medical cannabis use, particularly as it pertains to the use of medical cannabis-derived cannabidiol (CBD). Expansion of the use of medical cannabis and CBD would be beneficial for pharmacy practice as well as for patients across the state that suffer from seizures, cancer-related chronic pain, and more. Policy designating the expansion of medical cannabis and CBD use would be beneficial overall, granted some significant barriers of use associated with current practices. These notes outline the benefits and challenges of expansion as noted by the student fellows of the Center for Leading Healthcare Change (CLHC) at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

I. Benefits of medical cannabis formulation use expansion

There are many potential benefits of expanded medical cannabis and CBD use in the state of Minnesota. These benefits are multidisciplinary, spanning from the public health sector to the healthcare sector, and the financial sector.

In the wake of the opioid epidemic, many healthcare providers are turning to alternatives to opioids for pain management. With little to no evidence of fatal overdose potential, medical cannabis formulations offer an alternative and/or opioid-sparing option that may reduce use

Deadline for submission: June 10, 2019 - 5:00 p.m.

requirements. This is particularly impactful in the rural districts of Minnesota, many of which are crippled by the opioid epidemic and the systemic lack of access to health centers.

Minnesota pharmacists are well-equipped to develop standard practice protocol/procedures for the use of medical cannabis formulations. In particular, University of Minnesota pharmacy students and recent graduates are educated in pharmacogenomics and pharmacodynamics, which are highly relevant for the use of medical cannabis formulations. Many cannabis components are cytochrome p450 substrates. Drug interactions are plentiful, essentially requiring a pharmacist for medication management.

It is our hope that Minnesota pharmacists are energized by the prospect of leading safe and effective use of medical cannabis formulations for the betterment of patient care.

II. Barriers associated with current medical cannabis practices

The most prominent barrier to the expansion of medical cannabis, and CBD products derived from cannabis, is the Schedule I designation of cannabis by the FDA. However, the FDA approved Epidiolex in June 2018 as a Schedule V medication. Epidiolex is the first FDA-approved drug purified from cannabis, suggesting that the federal government may be considering rescheduling all products derived from cannabis.

Other high priority barriers associated with current medical cannabis practices include but are not limited to: inaccessibility of medical cannabis formulations due to cost; inability to legally process cash through federal institutions; lack of uniform policy guiding use of medical cannabis formulations while hospitalized; and limited indications for use and subsequent lack of broad research in the state of Minnesota.

These are barriers that we hope can be sufficiently addressed by Minnesota policies for use of medical cannabis formulations. The cost prohibitive nature of medical cannabis formulations is of the utmost importance. Addressing the issue of cost, including both entry into the state registry and cost of medications, would strengthen health equity in Minnesota pharmacy practice. Furthermore, improving accessibility would provide larger and more comprehensive populations with which to conduct medication use research.

III. Medical cannabis research and pharmacy practice in other states (Colorado)

First and foremost, medical cannabis research is robust in other states. In particular, the state of Colorado has state-driven and university-driven research initiatives. The Institute of Cannabis Research is a state-funded multidisciplinary research organization housed and staffed by Colorado State University. In addition to this partnership, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment are conducting research to understand the use and impact of medical cannabis. There are many initiatives focused on research, which subsequently informs pharmacy practice. Access to this research and Minnesota-based research initiatives would be highly beneficial for pharmacists and could be driven/conducted by research pharmacists.

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IV. Policy expansion proposals

From the student perspective, expansion of medical cannabis formulations in the state of Minnesota should at minimum address the following:

- a. Mandated pharmacist-driven distribution and management of medical cannabis formulations
- b. The current cost prohibitive nature of registration and purchasing of medical cannabis formulations
- c. Use/possession of medical cannabis formulations during hospitalization/inpatient treatment
- d. Consideration of expansion of indications for medical cannabis use based on research and pharmacy practice in other states
 - i. Research on the use of medical cannabis formulations for other indications

Students of the CLHC are grateful to MPhA for the opportunity to be a part of statewide policy and change. The CLHC was formed to cultivate student interests in policy and advocacy work. The opportunity to contribute to upcoming changes in legislation directly addresses the mission and vision of the CLHC. We are excited to continue to contribute to the bright future of Minnesota pharmacy practice.

Reference: <https://www.pharmacist.com/article/selling-cbd-oil-implications-pharmacy-owners>

__Alison Knutson_____
New Business Submitted By

6/7/2019
Date Submitted

OFFICE USE ONLY

_June 7, 2019_____
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