

Medical Cannabinoids - Informed Consent & Agreement

Cannabis (i.e. marijuana) is a plant. The buds (or flowers) of this plant contain over 100 substances called cannabinoids. It is believed that when people use cannabis, it is cannabinoids that cause its effects. You have been prescribed either an extracted or synthetic cannabinoid (such as nabilone or nabiximols, available by prescription), or have been medically authorized to use cannabis itself (often via an oral oil, or sometimes inhaled).

There are both potential benefits and potential harms to using a cannabinoid as a treatment strategy. The purpose of this document is to outline various considerations so that together with your health care practitioner you can determine if they are the right therapy for you to try.

Cannabinoids should always be viewed as a trial. If the goals of using the medication are not realized, the drug will be stopped. Not all people starting cannabinoids will report a benefit from using it. Almost all people starting a cannabinoid will get at least one side effect.

The risks include:

1. Psychiatric Disturbance

This has been reported to occur in as many as 1 in 4 people who inhale cannabis (1 in 6 across cannabinoids). This includes conditions such as depression, anxiety, and psychosis. In some people, taking cannabis may unmask schizophrenia. Prescription cannabinoids have been shown to cause euphoria, numbness, speech disorders, and muscle disorders. [NOTE: psychiatric disturbance may vary with varying dose, potency, product and formulation]

2. Drowsiness, Clouded Thinking, Disturbance in Attention

_____ (INITIALS)

I am aware that drowsiness or clouded thinking may make it dangerous for me to drive or operate heavy machinery. Alcohol or other medications that also cause drowsiness may worsen this effect. I agree to wait 4 hours after smoking cannabis, 6 hours after taking a cannabinoid orally, or 8 hours after feeling "high" before driving or operating heavy machinery or signing legal documents.

_____ (INITIALS)

I understand that using alcohol & a cannabinoid together is potentially dangerous. I have been advised not to do this.

3. Other Side Effects include nausea, uncontrollable vomiting, headache, high blood pressure, dizziness, numbness, problems with speech, and appetite changes.

4. Cannabis Use Disorder (Addiction) is a disease that occurs in some individuals (it has been reported in about 1 in 11 individuals using cannabis recreationally). Just as becoming overweight does not necessarily mean you will develop diabetes, taking a cannabinoid does not necessarily cause addiction. However, if you have risk factors for addiction (such as a strong family history of drug or alcohol abuse) or have had problems with drugs or alcohol in the past you must notify me since we do not want to cause a relapse. The extent of this risk is not certain. Even people who take a cannabinoid as recommended can become addicted to it.

_____ (INITIALS)

I have notified Dr _____ of any personal or family history of drug or alcohol abuse.

There are numerous laws and regulations regarding cannabinoids that your practitioner has to adhere to. The following requests are considered standard best practice and help this healthcare practice and you comply with these laws and regulations.

The patient agrees:

- To reliably attend appointments with the practitioner.
- To not use any illegal substances, such as cocaine or heroin.
- To not use unregulated cannabis/marijuana – only to use the supply authorized by the practitioner.
- To not seek out cannabis/marijuana, or any other controlled substance, from any other provider.
- To not give or sell the prescribed/authorized cannabinoid to anyone else, including family members.
- To use cannabinoids as prescribed/authorized and not in larger amounts or more frequently.
- To other pain consultations/management strategies, including non-drug approaches, as advised.
- To safely store the medication. (This is REALLY important as kids can easily accidentally ingest these substances.)
- To not take medical cannabis outside of Canada.
- To periodic urine drug tests as requested by the practitioner or clinic.
- To view cannabinoids as a trial, which will be discontinued if benefits of therapy are not seen, or harms outweigh benefits.
- To understand that if any of these conditions are broken, or if harms begin to outweigh benefits, the practitioner may refuse to provide future medical authorization for a cannabinoid.
- To report any side effects from using cannabinoids to my practitioner as soon as possible.

The practitioner agrees:

- To be able to see you within a reasonable time for follow up
- To discuss the results of urine drug testing with you before making any decisions
- If using to treat pain, to offer you treatment for your pain with therapies besides a cannabinoid if these medications are creating more harm than benefit.

Signatures:

Practitioner signature

Date

Patient signature

Date

Patient name (print)

Form available at:

-Word (Modifiable):

<http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Cannabinoids-Informed-Consent-And-Agreement.docx>

-Pdf:

<http://www.rxfiles.ca/rxfiles/uploads/documents/Cannabinoids-Informed-Consent-And-Agreement.pdf>