

Appendix A: Cannabis and Patient Care in Pharmacy Competencies

NOTE: The following competencies are adapted from the NAPRA Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacists at Entry to Practice (see

https://napra.ca/sites/default/files/2017-08/Comp_for_Cdn_PHARMACISTS_at_EntrytoPractice_March2014_b.pdf)

1. Ethical, Legal and Professional Responsibilities

Practise within legal requirements, demonstrate professionalism and uphold professional standards of practice, codes of ethics and policies.

Practise within legal requirements

- Act in accordance to all legal requirements (e.g., legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines) related to cannabis
- Stay current with legislative and regulation changes in regards to cannabis access and distribution including changes in policies and standards

Uphold ethical principles

Beneficence

- Identify and educate individuals in which risks of cannabis use clearly outweigh benefits of cannabis use
- Educate individuals to prevent or reduce potential short-and long-term risks associated with cannabis use

Non-maleficence

- Put patient's best interest ahead of own, especially if involved in any financial or business arrangement with a distributor or producer of cannabis involved in the dispensing, counselling and sale of cannabis
- Disclose any affiliation and relationship involved in the distribution, counselling and sale of cannabis to patient for transparency.

Respect for the Person

- Demonstrate respect for individuals' choice to use cannabis through appropriate communication and refrain from stigmatizing people who use or have used cannabis
- Demonstrate a professional and non-stigmatizing attitude towards individuals who use substances, including cannabis, irrespective of reason for use
- Balance need to share information within patients' circle of care with patient's wishes for privacy.

Accountability / Fidelity

- Identify and avoid real, perceived or potential conflict of interest

2. Patient Care

Pharmacists, in partnership with the patient and in collaboration with other health professionals, meet (or participate in meeting) the patient's health and drug-related needs to achieve the patient's health goals.

Develop professional relationship with patient

- Use effective communication and interviewing skills to encourage/support patient in sharing information on their cannabis use
- Consider and acknowledge the patient's needs, values, beliefs, experiences, and health goals as it relates to cannabis use

Obtain information about the patient including health status and concerns

- When relevant, gather information regarding cannabis use and experience when assessing and managing overall therapy for patients. (For example, when a patient is on or initiates psychiatric, chronic respiratory or cardiovascular medications, is pregnant or lactating or is taking any other psychoactive substance.)

Assess the patient's health status and concerns

- Assess individuals' potential risks or benefits of cannabis use
- Screen for cannabis use disorder and problematic cannabis use

Determine the patient's actual and potential drug therapy problems (DTPs).

- Determine the patient's actual and potential drug therapy problems involving cannabis.
- Identify DTPs or issues involving the patient's cannabis use and their medical conditions, other medications, and other patient parameters that could affect optimal health outcomes

Develop the patient's care plan, in partnership with the patient and in collaboration with other health professionals.

Implement the patient's care plan.

Monitor the patient's progress and assess therapeutic outcomes.

3. Knowledge and Research Application

Pharmacists access, retrieve, critically analyze and apply relevant information to make evidence-informed decisions within their practice with the goal of ensuring safe and effective patient care.

- Develop and maintain competence on:
 - Main constituents of cannabis, including phytocannabinoids and terpenes, and the effects on the endocannabinoid system
 - Effects of cannabinoids on health outcomes

- Pharmacology of cannabis and its constituents, potential therapeutic roles, short term and long term adverse effects, precautions and contra-indications, drug-drug interactions, drug-disease interaction
- Dosage form and routes of administrations' impact on pharmacokinetics, benefits and risks of cannabis use
- Disease states, disorders and/or symptoms that may be relieved or worsened by cannabis use
- Differences in the devices used for cannabis administration

Obtain knowledge from sources which are evidence informed and minimal in bias