

	NURSE PRACTITIONER PREPARATION FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS POLICY
	Date Effective: May 27, 2020
	Revised:
	Next Review Due: May 2023

Background

Medical cannabis refers to the use of whole unprocessed cannabis plant or its basic extracts to treat disease or symptom (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2015). Medical cannabis can be administered using a variety of methods including capsules, vaporizing or smoking dried buds, eating extracts or using oral sprays. Medical cannabis has been reported being used to treat palliative care patients, relieve the symptoms of cancer pain, nausea, insomnia, and to improve appetite. It has also been reported to treat neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis, motor neuron disease, spinal cord injury (Gardiner & Ingleton, 2010) and chronic pain and glaucoma (Green & De-Vries, 2010; Philipsen, Butler, Simon-Walterman & Artis, 2014).

Purpose

To describe the educational requirements necessary for Nurse Practitioners (NP) to prescribe medical cannabis.

1.0 Policy

- 1.1 NPs have the authority to prescribe medical cannabis in Prince Edward Island through the *RHPA Registered Nurses Regulations*.
- 1.2 An NP that considers prescribing medical cannabis must be knowledgeable of the relevant Acts and Regulations under the *Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR) (2016)*, the *Food and Drugs Act*, and the *Narcotic Safety and Awareness Act*.
- 1.3 An NP that wishes to prescribe medical cannabis in their practice must provide evidence to CRNPEI that they have completed a course or have had equivalent preparation (such as mentorship by a expert) on prescribing medical cannabis, such as *The Medical Cannabis Institute's Global Clinical Cannabinoid Medicine Curriculum course*.

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- 1.4 Other courses on prescribing medical cannabis will be considered following submission of the course details to the Coordinator or Regulatory Services.
- 1.5 Proof of successful completion of an approved course or a letter indicating expert mentorship, must be submitted to the Coordinator of Regulatory Services prior to prescribing medical cannabis in practice.
- 1.6 An NP must only prescribe medical cannabis for those indications that are listed on Health Canada's website.
- 1.7 An NP must be in an established provider-client relationship to prescribe medical cannabis to a client.
- 1.8 An NP must not prescribe medical cannabis for recreational purposes.