

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, syilx, and Tsilhqot'in Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.

Interior Health recognizes that diversity in the workplace shapes values, attitudes, expectations, perception of self and others and in turn impacts behaviours in the workplace. The dimensions of a diverse workplace include the protected characteristics under the human rights code of: race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical disability, mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, criminal or summary conviction unrelated to employment.

1.0 PURPOSE

To establish standardized requirements to support Client use of Medical Cannabis in Interior Health (IH) Premises.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
<i>Cannabis</i>	<i>A substance derived from the cannabis plant, including constitutes of cannabis and cannabinoids. Examples include: dried preparations (flower/bud/leaf), edibles, lotions, creams, oils, capsules or concentrates.</i>
<i>Client</i>	<i>Any individual receiving care or services from IH. Includes Clients, patients, long-term care residents and any other person receiving care. Note that different terms may be used in different care settings.</i>
<i>Designated Person or Designate</i>	<i>A person who is registered with Health Canada to produce cannabis for medical purposes on behalf of a Client.</i>
<i>Interior Health Premises</i>	<i>Includes all Interior Health owned, operated, leased, or contracted facilities and grounds where care is provided by Interior Health Staff.</i>
<i>Interior Health Staff</i>	<i>A person licensed, certified or registered to provide health care. For the purposes of this policy, refers to registered nurses (RN), licensed practical nurses (LPN), registered psychiatric nurses (RPN), nurse practitioners (NP), pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physicians, and allied health professionals who practice on IH Premises or at programs owned or operated by IH.</i>
<i>Licensed Seller</i>	<i>Outlets authorized by the federal or provincial government to sell cannabis. Includes provincially licensed sellers of cannabis for medical purposes, provincial or territorial retail outlets, or provincial or territorial authorized online sales platforms.</i>
<i>Medical Cannabis</i>	<i>Includes 'Cannabis for Medical Purposes' as defined under the Cannabis Act. Further, it includes legally sourced</i>

Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services

1 of 9

Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services

Date Approved: March 2017

Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)

This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

	<i>cannabis products where a prescriber order is in place for the treatment of a medical condition.</i>
<i>Medical Document</i>	<i>Health Canada document completed by a health-care practitioner authorizing the use of cannabis for medical purposes.</i>
<i>Most Responsible Practitioner (MRP)</i>	<i>The Most Responsible Practitioner is the Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Dentist, or Midwife whose name appears in the Client's chart designated as the MRP and who has overall responsibility for directing and coordinating the care and management of an individual patient.</i>
<i>Non-Medical Cannabis</i>	<i>Includes personally sourced Cannabis products (i.e., oils, topical creams, vaporizers, edibles, beverages, etc) where a physician and/or nurse practitioner order is NOT in place and/or is not necessary. Includes both legally (i.e., government sourced or obtained from a Licensed Seller) and illicitly sourced Cannabis products. Used for recreational purposes or other self-identified reasons.</i>
<i>Registered Person</i>	<i>A person who has registered with Health Canada to access cannabis for medical purposes. They may also have registered separately to produce their own cannabis for medical purposes and received a certificate denoting same.</i>
<i>Secure Storage Device</i>	<i>A device locked at all times, attached to a permanent structure and inaccessible to the public or other unauthorized personnel. Authorized access is made using a unique key, punch code combination, or username/password or BioID. Examples include a locked cupboard, drawer, vault, or Automated Dispensing Cabinet (i.e., Omnicell).</i>
<i>Young Person</i>	<i>As defined by the Cannabis Act, an individual under 18 years of age.</i>

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 Possession of Cannabis is permitted on all Interior Health (IH) Premises.
 - 3.1.1 Smoking or vaporizing Medical or Non-Medical Cannabis remains non-permitted on IH Premises, as per the [AV2000 Smoke Free Environment Policy](#).
 - 3.1.2 For the use of Non-Medical Cannabis on IH Premises, please refer to the [Non-Medical Cannabis](#) Policy
 - 3.1.3 For the use of Medical Cannabis on IH Premises, please follow this policy.
 - 3.1.4 Young Persons are required to provide a Health Canada Medical Document for use of Medical Cannabis.

Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services	2 of 9
Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services	
Date Approved: March 2017	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

- 3.2 Interior Health and IH pharmacy do not purchase or provide Medical Cannabis.
- 3.2.1 This policy does not apply to nabilone (Cesamet®) and Sativex®, which are Health Canada approved medications that may be provided where IH Formulary restrictions are met.
- 3.3 Clients must procure Medical Cannabis from one of the following sources:
- 3.3.1 Purchase directly from a [Health Canada Approved Licensed Seller](#).
- 3.3.2 Purchase from a provincially or territorially Licensed Seller, including online licenced retailers.
- Delivery of Medical Cannabis from a Licensed Seller to a Client in an IH Facility is permitted.
- 3.3.3 Designate a person to produce Cannabis for them. Clients must provide a copy of the Health Canada certificate for production.
- 3.3.4 Produce their own Cannabis, under a registration with Health Canada for personal production. Clients must provide a copy of the Health Canada certificate for production.
- 3.4 Absence of a Medical Document does not preclude use of Medical Cannabis if it is ordered in IH Premises by the MRP.
- 3.4.1 Clients utilizing Cannabis for Medical Purposes under a Health Canada designation must provide a copy of their Medical Document supporting use.
- 3.4.2 Clients who require possession of more than 30 g dried equivalent of Cannabis must have a Health Canada Medical Document.
- IH Staff are not responsible for weighing or confirming the quantity of Cannabis in a Client's possession.
- 3.5 Cannabis plants must not be grown on IH Premises.
- 3.6 Cannabis products cannot be shared, distributed, or sold on any IH premises.
- 3.7 Interior Health owned, operated, leased, or contracted facilities and grounds where care is provided, must follow the [AV0100 - Occupational Health and Safety Program](#) to make sure all known, or reasonably foreseeable health or safety hazards workers are likely to be exposed to while performing their work are eliminated or controlled.
- 3.7.1 Medical Cannabis must be consumed/used in a safe and responsible manner that recognizes and respects the rights of Employees and other Clients and does not endanger others.
- 3.8 IH Staff will support secure storage of Medical Cannabis by Clients.
- 3.8.1 Clients may store Medical Cannabis in a Client Secure Storage Device.
- 3.8.2 If Client Secure Storage Devices are not available, or the Client is unable to use or manage, IH Staff may securely store Medical Cannabis in the medication room as per [PHK0600 - Controlled Substances](#) policy.

Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services		3 of 9
Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services		
Date Approved: March 2017	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)	
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>		

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

- 3.9 Medical Cannabis that is abandoned or relinquished by a Client will be managed as follows:
- 3.9.1 Returned to the supporting IH Pharmacy, where it will be destructed after a holding period of 30 days.
 - 3.9.2 For facilities not supported by an IH Pharmacy, disposed of by two licenced health-care professionals into a pharmaceutical waste container, following a holding period of 30 days as per [AK0700- Client Valuables and Personal Effects Policy](#).
- 3.10 **Care Planning**
- 3.10.1 Develop and implement culturally safe, trauma informed care plans for Client's who use Cannabis in alignment with [AH5000 Harm Reduction - People Who Use Substances Policy](#).
 - 3.10.2 Respect Clients who have an established care plan that incorporates Cannabis products.
 - 3.10.3 MRP must communicate potential or apparent drug interactions, side effects, benefits, safety risks/concerns and/or other impacts related to the Client's use of Cannabis.
 - 3.10.4 If a Client engages in behaviours identified as posing a risk to others and/or self as a result of Medical Cannabis use, discussions will occur with the Client, the MRP and the Clients' care team to ensure risks are mitigated within the Client's care plan.
 - 3.10.5 Encourage effective communication between Client, MRP and Clinical Staff about the use of personal medications, traditional medications, supplements and substances.
- 3.11 **IH Employee Administration of Medical Cannabis**
- 3.11.1 For IH Staff to administer, Medical Cannabis must be ordered by MRP, and the Client's Medical Cannabis must be verified.
 - 3.11.2 The MRP is responsible for ordering Medical Cannabis in compliance with [PHB0100-Safe Communication of Medication Orders](#). MRP must only order Medical Cannabis if the client has:
 - Procured Medical Cannabis legally, and
 - Medical Cannabis in a form that is clearly labelled with the strength or concentration and is measurable for administration.
 - Measurable forms of Cannabis include commercially prepared and labelled oils, tinctures, edibles, tablets, or capsules.
 - 3.11.3 Verify Medical Cannabis following procedures outlined in [PHK0700- Patient's Own Medication and Natural Health Products in Acute Care](#).
 - Medical Cannabis, when obtained from a Licensed Seller, must be provided in its original packaging.

Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services	4 of 9
Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services	
Date Approved: March 2017	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

- If a Client's Medical Cannabis is repackaged in a blister pack, nursing or pharmacy staff must confirm with the Client's community pharmacy or care home to verify product.
 - Maintain security and chain of signatures when transferring Medical Cannabis between pharmacy and nursing units as per [PHK0600- Controlled Substances](#).
- 3.11.4 If Medical Cannabis product cannot be verified, Client must self-administer Medical Cannabis (3.12.3).
- 3.11.5 Document administration of Medical Cannabis on the Medication Administration Record.
- 3.12 **Client Self-Administration of Medical Cannabis**
 - 3.12.1 Client self-administration of Medical Cannabis is permitted. The Medical Cannabis must be ordered by the MRP, otherwise refer to [AH5500 Non-Medical Cannabis Policy](#).
 - MRP should consider Client ability to self-administer following criteria in Section 3.2 of [PHK0750 Patient Self-Administration of Medication - Acute Care](#) Policy
 - 3.12.2 If Medical Cannabis has been verified as per Section 3.11.3, Client to document use on the Patient Medication Self-Administration Record
 - 3.12.3 If Medical Cannabis cannot be verified per Section 3.11.3 IH Staff will not administer and the Client must self-administer, if capable
 - Add label comment to Medication Administration Record "Unable to verify Medical Cannabis product, patient to self-administer"
If Client is unable to self-administer contact MRP to discontinue order
 - 3.12.4 Remove self-administered Medical Cannabis for safekeeping as per [AK0700 - Client Valuables & Personal Effects](#) policy when:
 - Client is incapable;
 - There is a specific and compelling safety concern within inpatient units; or
 - Client is admitted to a unit where substance possession remains non-permitted (withdrawal units and settings where abstinence-based recovery services are provided)
- 3.1.2 If removed for safekeeping, to mitigate risk, MRP must be notified in order to offer clinical support.

Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services	5 of 9
Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services	
Date Approved: March 2017	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

4.0 PROCEDURES

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1.1 Employees

- Refer to [AK0700 Client Valuables & Personal Effects Policy](#) for guidance on managing Client personal effects.
- Refer to the [AV0100 Occupational Health and Safety Program](#) for guidance on workplace-related health concerns.
- Refer to any disrespectful, aggressive or violent behaviour as per the [AV2500 Violence Prevention Program Policy](#).
- If a Client is suspected of being acutely intoxicated, any intervention must first prioritize protecting the public, other Clients, Employees, and the physical safety of the suspected intoxicated Client (e.g., injury/fall prevention).
 - If Cannabis is suspected to have contained illicit substances, follow the sector-specific Safe Work Procedure;
 - [Illicit Substance Response in Acute Care](#)
 - [Illicit Substance Response in Long Term Care](#)
 - [Illicit Substance Response Home Health and Community](#)
- Follow the Risk Management Process as needed to identify, assess, manage and monitor related risks.

4.1.2 Most Responsible Practitioner

- Discuss with Client potential or apparent drug interactions, side effects, benefits, safety risks/concerns and/or other impacts related to the Client's use of Non-Medical Cannabis.

4.1.3 Clinical Staff

- Use discretion to assist a Client self-administering Medical Cannabis
- Wear clean gloves prior to handling and/or application of any Cannabis product.
- Consider whether a Client may be using Cannabis to address the personal treatment of a medical condition and notify the MRP of any related clinical observations and/or concerns.
- Document in charting notes any objective clinical observations and/or concerns related to the Clients Medical Cannabis use.

4.1.4 Client

- Advise their MRP of their Cannabis use so that the MRP may consider any possible drug or treatment interactions.

Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services	6 of 9
Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services	
Date Approved: March 2017	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

- Consume/use their Cannabis in their personal spaces and not in common areas, with the exception of smoking or vaporizing Cannabis, which must be done off IH Premises, as per [AV2000 Smoke Free Environment Policy](#).

5.0 REFERENCES

1. Government of Canada. Cannabis Act. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-24.5/FullText.html>.
2. Government of Canada. Cannabis Regulations. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-144/>.
3. Health Canada. Medical Document Supporting Use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes. https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/migration/hc-sc/dhp-mps/alt_formats/pdf/marihuana/info/Medical-Documents-EN.pdf.
4. Health Canada. Registration or Designation to Produce Cannabis for Medical Purposes. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/people-registered-designated-produce-cannabis-medical-purposes.html>.
5. BC College of Nurses and Midwives. Cannabis. <https://www.bccnm.ca/RN/learning/Pages/Cannabis.aspx>.
6. Health Canada. Packaging and labelling guide for cannabis products. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/cannabis-regulations-licensed-producers/packaging-labelling-guide-cannabis-products/guide.html>.
7. Health Canada. How to read and understand a cannabis product label. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/personal-use/how-read-understand-cannabis-product-label.html>.

6.0 RELATED IH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- [AH5500 - Non-Medical Cannabis Policy](#)
- [PHK0750 - Patient Self-Administration of Medication in Acute Care Policy](#)
- [AV2000 - Smoke Free Environment](#)
- [AK0700 - Client Valuables & Personal Effects](#)
- [AV0100 - Occupational Health and Safety Program](#)
- [PHB0100-Safe Communication of Medication Orders](#)
- [PHK0700-Patient's Own Medication and Natural Health Products in Acute Care](#)
- [PHK0600-Controlled Substances](#)
- [AK0800 – Medication Reconciliation](#)
- [Safe Work Procedure: Patient Own Medications – in Care Settings](#)
- [Risk Management Process](#)
- [Managed Risk Agreement – Long-term Care Services](#)

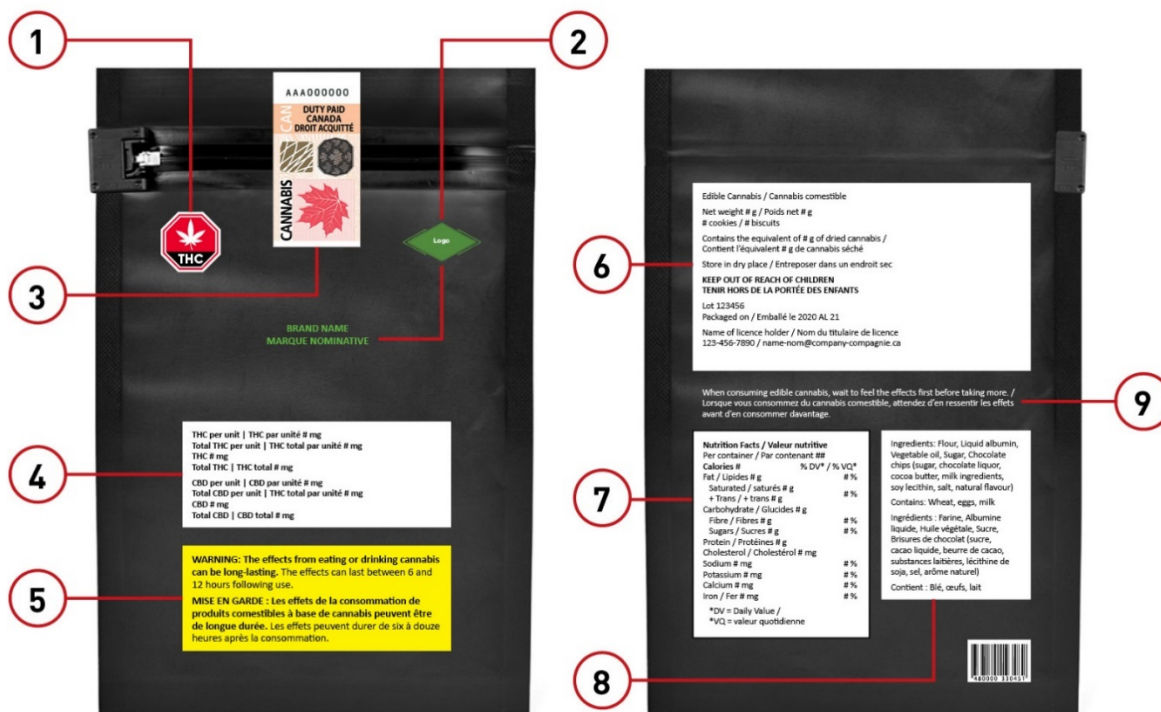
Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services	7 of 9
Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services	
Date Approved: March 2017	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS

Appendix A- Packaging of Health Canada Approved Cannabis Products

Legal cannabis will include the following components^{4,5}; refer to pictures below for visual examples.

1. Standardized cannabis symbol
 - a. Required on the front of cannabis products containing more than 10 mcg/g of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
2. Product brand name and logo
3. Excise stamp
 - a. Note that each province has a different-coloured excise stamp, though they all appear similar to the one in the images below
 - b. Some products are exempt from excise stamps, including certain prescription cannabis products and low-THC products
4. THC and cannabidiol (CBD) amounts
5. Health warning message
6. Other required regulatory information
7. List of ingredients
8. Nutrition facts label (edible products only)
9. Consumer warning



Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services	8 of 9
Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services	
Date Approved: March 2017	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	

PHK1000 – MEDICAL CANNABIS



Policy Sponsor: VP Clinical and Support Services	9 of 9
Policy Steward: Program Director, Pharmacy Services	
Date Approved: March 2017	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: February 2025 (R)
This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.	