

# **NCSBN** **GUIDELINES** FOR THE **NURSING CARE** OF

---

## Patients Using Marijuana





# University of Mississippi



# Qualifying conditions

HIV+/AIDS

Persistent Muscle Spasms  
(Not limited to MS)

Hepatitis C

Sjorgren's  
syndrome

Spinal Cord Disease

Myoclonus

Interstitial  
Cystitis

Post-  
concussion  
syndrome

Arnold-Chiari malformation  
& Syringomelia

Neuropathies

Chronic Pancreatitis

Traumatic Brain  
Injury

Muscular  
Dystrophy

ALS

Epilepsy

Nausea

Hydrocephalus

Cerebral Palsy

Neurofibromatosis

Nail-patella  
syndrome

Anxiety Disorders

Spastic  
quadriplegia

Myasthenia gravis

Fibrous dysplasia

Lupus

Cystic Fibrosis

Dystonia

Sickle  
Cell  
Disease

Arthritis

Crohn's / IBS

Autism

Huntington's  
Disease

Tourette's

Pain

Mitochondrial  
Disease

Fibromyalgia

Terminal Illness /  
Hospice

Chronic traumatic  
encephalopathy

Cancer

Alzheimer's

Complex Regional  
Pain Syndrome

Ulcerative colitis

Spinocerebellar Ataxia

Anorexia

Post Laminectomy Syndrome  
with Chronic Radiculopathy

Residual  
limb pain

Intractable skeletal  
muscular spasticity

PTSD

Chronic  
Inflammatory  
Demyelinating  
Polyneuropathy

Parkinson's  
Disease

Glaucoma

Migraine

Decompensated  
cirrhosis

Cachexia

Causalgia

Spinal cord Injury





**UNITEDFORCARE**

People United for Medical Marijuana



**PATIENTS**  
**OUT OF TIME**



**AmericansFor**  
**SafeAccess**

Advancing Legal Medical Marijuana Therapeutics and Research



**Compassionate**  
**CARE ALLIANCE**





# **NCSBN** **GUIDELINES** FOR THE **NURSING CARE** OF

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## Patients Using Marijuana

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# Medical marijuana users today





# Qualifying conditions

HIV+/AIDS

Persistent Muscle Spasms  
(Not limited to MS)

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syndrome

Spinal Cord Disease

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Parkinson's  
Disease

Glaucoma

Migraine

Decompensated  
cirrhosis

Cachexia

Causalgia

Spinal cord Injury

## APRNs Certifying a Medical Marijuana Qualifying Condition

### Purpose of the Guidelines

Over 31 US jurisdictions (including the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico) passed legislation legalizing cannabis for medical use. Several other jurisdictions also have legalized cannabis for medical use.\* Each medical marijuana program has unique

or "authorities"; however, 13 of 29 jurisdictions use "certify" language in their statutes.

**Clinical research.** An activity that involves studies that experimentally assign nondisabled human participants to one or more drug interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes.

**Medical caregiver.** An individual who is selected by the Medical Marijuana Program qualifying patient and authorized by the Medical Marijuana Program to purchase and/or administer cannabis on the patient's behalf. Also sometimes referred to as an "attest caregiver."

**Marijuana.** The generic name for synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol. It is the active ingredient in the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)-approved drug Marinol.

**Endocannabinoid system.** A system that consists of endocannabinoids, cannabinoid receptors, and the enzymes responsible for their synthesis and degradation of endocannabinoids.

**Cannabis.** A cultivated cannabis plant, whether for recreational or medical use. The words "marijuana" and "cannabis" are often interchangeably used in various lay and scientific literature. These guidelines will primarily use the word "cannabis." When referring to a medical marijuana program, the guidelines will use the word "marijuana," as it is often used within program references.

**Medical Marijuana Program (MMP).** The official jurisdictional program for the use of cannabis for medical purposes. Search the jurisdiction's website or Department of Health for "medical cannabis program" or "medical marijuana program."<sup>1</sup>

**Nabilone.** The generic name for a synthetic cannabinoid similar to tetrahydrocannabinol. It is the active ingredient in the FDA-approved drug Cesamet.

**Schedule I Controlled Substance.** Defined in the federal Controlled Substances Act<sup>2</sup> as those substances that have a high potential for abuse; no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; and a lack of accepted safety for use of the substance under medical supervision.

**Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).** One of many cannabinoids found in cannabis. THC is the primary substance responsible for most of the characteristic psychoactive effects of cannabis.<sup>3</sup>

**Cannabinoid.** Any chemical compound that acts on cannabinoid receptors. These include endogenous and exogenous cannabinoids. **Cannabinol (CBN).** A cannabinoid more commonly found in aged cannabis as a metabolite of other cannabinoids. It is nonpsychoactive.

**Certify.** The act of confirming that a patient has a qualifying condition. Many jurisdictions use alternative phrases such as "attest"

\* In Australia, cannabis for medical use is federally legal, with states allowed to implement as they see fit. Although Bermuda has not legislated use of marijuana, its Supreme Court ruled that citizens could apply for personal licenses to possess cannabis for medical use. Cannabis for medical use is federally legal in all provinces of Canada. In New Zealand, physicians may prescribe CBD and cannabis-based products.

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Due to government restrictions on research involving cannabis, the surge of legislation has outpaced research, leaving nurses with few resources when caring for patients who use medical cannabis. Therefore, information

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# APRNs Certifying a Medical Marijuana Qualifying Condition



## Medical Marijuana Education in APRN Nursing Programs

### Purpose of the Guidelines

Over 31 US jurisdictions (including the District of Columbia), Guam, and Puerto Rico passed legislation legalizing cannabis for medical use. Several other jurisdictions also have legalized cannabis for medical use.

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**Clinical research.** An activity that involves studies that experimentally assign randomized human participants to one or more drug

# Medical Marijuana Education in APRN Nursing Programs

### Definitions

**Cannabis.** The plant genus *Cannabis*. This report uses "cannabis" as a shorthand that also includes cannabinoids.

**Cannabinoid.** Any chemical compound that acts on cannabinoid receptors. These include endogenous and exogenous cannabinoids.

**Cannabinol (CBN).** A cannabinoid more commonly found in aged cannabis as a metabolite of other cannabinoids. It is nonpsychoactive.

**Certify.** The act of confirming that a patient has a qualifying condition. Many jurisdictions use alternative phrases such as "attest."

\* In Australia, cannabis for medical use is federally legal, with states allowed to implement as they see fit. Although Bermuda has not legislated use of marijuana, their Supreme Court ruled that citizens can apply for personal licenses to possess cannabis for medical use. Cannabis for medical use is federally legal in all provinces of Canada. In New Zealand, physicians may prescribe CBD and cannabis-based products.

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## Medical Marijuana Education in Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs

### Purpose of the Guidelines

Over 31 US jurisdictions (including the District of Columbia), Guam, and Puerto Rico passed legislation legalizing cannabis for medical use. Several other jurisdictions also have legalized cannabis for medical use. Each medical marijuana program has unique characteristics. In the United States, cannabis is a Schedule I Controlled Substance. Therefore, medical cannabis is unlike most other therapeutics in that providers cannot prescribe cannabis, nor can pharmacies dispense cannabis. However, applicable jurisdictional statutes and rules provide for the manufacture, distribution, and use of cannabis for medical purposes.

These recommendations for curriculum content provide nurses with principles of safe and knowledgeable practice to promote patient safety when caring for patients using medical marijuana.

### Definitions

**Cannabis.** Any new preparation of the leaves or flowers from the plant genus *Cannabis*. This report uses "cannabis" as a shorthand that also includes cannabinoids.

**Cannabinoid (CBD).** A major cannabinoid that indirectly antagonizes cannabinoid receptors, which may attenuate the psychoactive effects of tetrahydrocannabinol.

**Cannabinoid.** Any chemical compound that acts on cannabinoid receptors. These include endogenous and exogenous cannabinoids.

**Cannabinol (CBN).** A cannabinoid more commonly found in aged cannabis as a metabolite of other cannabinoids. It is nonpsychoactive.

or "authoritative"; however, 13 of 29 jurisdictions use "certify" language in their statutes.

**Clinical research.** An activity that involves studies that experimentally assign randomized human participants to one or more drug interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes.

**Designated caregiver.** An individual who is selected by the Medical Marijuana Program qualifying patient and authorized by the Medical Marijuana Program to purchase and/or administer cannabis on the patient's behalf. Also sometimes referred to as an "attestant caregiver."

**Dronabinol.** The generic name for synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol. It is the active ingredient in the U.S. Food & Drug Administration-approved drug Marinol.

**Endocannabinoid system.** A system that consists of endocannabinoids, cannabinoid receptors, and the enzymes responsible for synthesis and degradation of endocannabinoids.

**Marijuana.** A cultivated cannabis plant, whether for recreational or medicinal use. The words "marijuana" and "cannabis" are often used interchangeably in various lay and scientific literatures. These guidelines will primarily use the word "cannabis." When referring to a medical marijuana program, the guidelines will use the word "marijuana," as it is often used within program references.

**Medical Marijuana Program (MMP).** The official jurisdictional resource for the use of cannabis for medical purposes. Search the jurisdiction's website or Department of Health for "medical cannabis program" or "medical marijuana program."

**Nabilone.** The generic name for a synthetic cannabinoid similar to tetrahydrocannabinol. It is the active ingredient in the U.S. Food & Drug Administration-approved drug Cesamet.

# Medical Marijuana Education in Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs

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# JOURNAL OF NURSING REGULATION

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## The NCSBN National Nursing Guidelines for Medical Marijuana

Current Legislation, Scientific Literature Review, and Nursing Implications

Nursing Care of the Patient Using Medical Marijuana

Medical Marijuana Education in Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs

Medical Marijuana Education in APRN Nursing Programs

APRNs Certifying a Medical Marijuana Qualifying Condition







U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration



DOT HS 812 440

July 2017

# Marijuana-Impaired Driving

## A Report to Congress

# Marijuana breathalyzer aims to detect high drivers 'without unjustly accusing'

**USA TODAY NETWORK** Lilly Price, USA TODAY

Published 8:22 a.m. ET Aug. 7, 2018 | Updated 9:17 a.m. ET Aug. 8, 2018



(Photo: Hound Lab)



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*Corrections & Clarifications: An earlier version of this article misstated how the device detects THC and wrongly characterized Cannabix Technologies' product.*

A breathalyzer able to determine if a driver smoked pot could roll out in select cities in the fall, according to a company developing the first-of-its-kind product.

With recreational weed now legal in nine states and the District of Columbia, California-based [Hound Labs Inc.](#) has created a marijuana-breathalyzer it says will make roads safer and hold drivers accountable. The company claims the device is hypersensitive, allowing it to pick up any THC — the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana —





NCSBN GUIDELINES FOR THE BOARD OF NURSING:  
COMPLAINTS INVOLVING A LICENSEE AND CANNABIS

August 2018



NCSBN GUIDELINES FOR THE BOARD OF NURSING:  
COMPLAINTS INVOLVING A LICENSEE AND CANNABIS

August 2018

of the Medical Marijuana Program

**Definitions of Terms Used in This Document**

*Authorize.* Any act of certification, attestation, or other method for a practitioner to affirm that a patient may benefit from medical cannabis. This is explicitly not a prescription.

*Cannabis.* Any raw preparation of the leaves or flowers from the plant genus Cannabis. This report uses "cannabis" as a shorthand that also includes cannabinoids.

# Right Touch Regulation

- Evaluate all mitigating and aggravating factors
- Use minimum regulatory force necessary for protection of public





# **NCSBN** **GUIDELINES** FOR THE **NURSING CARE** OF Patients Using Marijuana



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COMPLAINTS INVOLVING A LICENSEE AND CANNABIS

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