



## FAQ

### Medical Marihuana

#### **Can RNs administer medical marihuana to patients who have an appropriate prescription from a physician?**

The *Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR)* clearly allows RNs to assist with self-administration of medical marihuana. However, there has been an increased number of clients using medical marihuana for extended periods, and many lose the ability to self-administer the product over time. In these situations, RNs should inform the prescribing physician so that alternatives for symptom control can be explored.

When it is decided that medical marihuana is the appropriate treatment option on a continued basis and was duly prescribed by a physician, NANB's legal review has concluded that:

- In hospitals, with the permission of the person in charge of the hospital, RNs can administer medical marihuana supplied by a licensed producer (*Section 56 Class Exemption to Authorize the Conduct of Activities with Cannabis in Hospitals*).
- In other clinical settings RNs, acting as an agent of a physician, can administer medical marihuana supplied by a licensed producer (*Subsection 3(2) of the Narcotic Control Regulations*).

NANB recommends that all agencies develop policies to guide the use of medical marihuana in their facilities that ensure both client and employee safety. RNs working with clients using medical marihuana should review resources such as Health Canada's information for health professionals: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/med/index-eng.php>

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