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Professional Standard Regarding the Authorization of Marijuana for Medical Purposes

This document is a **standard** approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.

A **standard** reflects the minimum professional and ethical behaviour, conduct or practice expected by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. Physicians licensed with the College are required to be familiar with and comply with the College **standards**.

Preamble

The College considers the authorization of marijuana for medical purposes to be comparable to prescribing medication. Authorizing a patient's use of marijuana for medical purposes is a clinical decision. The College recommends that any such decision be informed by sound clinical evidence.

Physicians who authorize the use of medical marijuana by their patients are encouraged to stay abreast of guidance from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, as well as organizations such as the Canadian Medical Protective Association, as medico-legal and professional concerns apply.

Professional Standard

The College considers the authorization of marijuana for medical purposes to be a clinical act and an insured service. Physicians must not bill patients directly for services related to the authorization of marijuana for medical purposes, which includes the completion of any required forms.

Physicians must only authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes in the context of a bona fide patient-doctor relationship. Physicians may only authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes when in direct, in-person contact with their patients.

Document History

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