

NCSBN Nursing Guidelines for Medical Marijuana and Implications for Nurses Practicing in Minnesota Providing Care for Clients Using Medical Cannabis

Nurses providing care for clients using medical cannabis are strongly encouraged to review the comprehensive guidelines published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). The “NCSBN National Nursing Guidelines for Medical Marijuana” is published in the *Journal of Nursing Regulation* and is available at <https://www.ncsbn.org/marijuana-guidelines.htm>. Part I of the guidelines provides an overview of state and federal laws, a scientific literature review, and six essential nursing considerations. Part II of the guidelines provides recommendations for nursing education programs, APRN patient certification guidelines, and addresses nursing practice implications, which are discussed in the publication “Nursing Care of the Patient Using Medical Marijuana”. The NCSBN also offers a continuing education course, “Caring for Patients Using Medical Marijuana” available at <https://www.ncsbn.org/Article.pdf>.

Minnesota Nursing Practice:

The Minnesota Medical Cannabis Act (Minnesota Statutes § 152.21-152.37) allows individuals with a qualifying medical condition to enroll in the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Registry and become eligible to receive smoke-free medical cannabis products. The Minnesota Board of Nursing recognizes that nurses may be involved in the care of clients who are receiving medical cannabis products. As always, nurses are expected to follow the prevailing standards of practice and the Nurse Practice Act (Minnesota Statutes § 148.171-148.285).

- Nurses are eligible to register with the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Registry to become a registered designated caregiver for a specific client. Nurses must maintain registered designated caregiver status with the Medical Cannabis Registry while handling medical cannabis during client care.
- Nurses providing assistance with administration of medical cannabis should review medical cannabis laws and rules, and other state laws and rules that may pertain to their situation.

The nurse is responsible to:

- Apply nursing care standards for assessment, intervention, evaluation, and documentation while caring for clients receiving medical cannabis, and follow the nursing employment agency/facility guidelines for managing client care and the safe storage of medical cannabis.
- Follow standard general medication distribution/administration practices when assisting with medical cannabis administration.
- Employ guidelines for determination of dosage, frequency of use, and route as provided by the medical cannabis distribution pharmacist and any additional guidance by the client’s licensed medical doctor, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.

- Have a working knowledge of the current state of legislation of medical cannabis in Minnesota. (NCSBN, 2018)
- Have a general knowledge of the principles of medical cannabis and the medical cannabis program. (NCSBN, 2018)
- Have a general understanding of the endocannabinoid system, receptors, cannabinoids, and the interactions between them. (NCSBN, 2018)
- Understand cannabis pharmacology and the research associated with the use of medical cannabis. (NCSBN, 2018)
- Conduct an assessment for the signs and symptoms of medical cannabis adverse effects. (NCSBN, 2018)
- Communicate the findings of the clinical encounter to other health care providers and note such communication in the medical record. (NCSBN, 2018)
- Identify the safety considerations for the client use of medical cannabis. (NCSBN, 2018)

Resources

Minnesota Department of Health Issue Brief 15-04: Medical Cannabis in Health Care Facilities

Minnesota Department of Health Issue Brief 15-05: Medical Cannabis and Non-Certified Health Care Providers

Minnesota Office of Medical Cannabis

Minnesota Statutes Providing for Medical Cannabis MS 152.22 – 152.37

Definitions	MS 152.22
Health Care Practitioner Duties	MS 152.28
Protections for Registry Program Participation	MS 152.32
Health Care Facilities	MS 152.34

References

NCSBN National Nursing Guidelines for Medical Marijuana (2018). *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 9(2), S23-26.

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