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# Appendix K: Healthcare Practitioner-Reported Negative Effects from Medical Cannabis

Note: Word choice and spellings have been retained as written by respondent to avoid inadvertent mischaracterization of intent. Brackets have been used to explain words redacted to prevent individual identification or for other reasons. Negative effects are broken down by negative effect score rating.

## No Negative Effect Score

- As of her last assessment, she had not yet found a formulation of medical cannabis that she could tolerate taking regularly.
- deceased sepsis
- did not tolerate side effects
- patient has not followed up at clinic since certification
- increased anxiety
- Patient only used medical cannabis for one month and stopped using it because she felt it wasn't working for her.
- Patient states that he only went to the dispensary twice but did not continue to get medical cannabis because he did not like the psychoactive effects from the THC.
- Pt has not been able to afford the cannabis so he has not been taken it in several months
- Pt has not been able to afford the cannabis so she has not been taking it
- Reports it caused pain in "other areas that are normally painless." Also, she cannot afford it at this time. She did not tolerate the "high" feeling she felt from it either.
- Patient decided that the product was not for her- she did not feel comfortable taking it. She attempted it one time and was done.
- Patient stated that she only went to a dispensary 2 or 3 times and she did not find the cannabis to be helping her at all so she hasn't been back since.
- She is experiencing difficulty with dosing to determine how to use the oil and vapor form.
- discuss on F/U
- Patient has not returned for follow up appointments to evaluate.
- Cost. No medical side effects, however.
- After taking 3 weeks developed dizziness. Not sure if due to cannabis or other conditions-she put cannabis on hold while determining
- Headache at first, but this has resolved

- caused fatigue and "fog"

## Score of 1: No Negative Effects

- None. they did not work so he never continued on them.
- Patient did not experience any negative effects.
- Denies side effects
- Denies side effects. Pain is much worse now, though. Inadequately controlled given the cost of cannabis. The patient stated she will no longer continue the cannabis.
- Denies.
- Denies side effects
- Denies side effects
- None, just not helping with pain. The patient's wife stated that they plan to follow up again with [MANUFACTURER] to see if any changes can be made.
- Patient has not complained of side effects.
- Denies side effects. Did not feel like [BALANCED THC:CBD PRODUCT] helped him at all, so he is only using [HIGH THC PRODUCT] spray.
- Denies side effects.
- None but it is cost prohibitive to continue.
- The negative effects primarily include being labeled as a pain patient and wasting much time with weak strains given her prior experience with potent medical grade cannabis from out west.
- Denies
- Denies side effects
- Helped fibromyalgia
- Not taking medical cannabis due to cost of prescription. Was taking OTC CBD oil as of [DATE].
- Patient has experienced no negative effects.
- Patient states that he has experienced no negative effects.
- Patient sometimes experiences headaches from medical cannabis.
- Can make her tired so she won't take it while watching her Grandchildren
- dry mouth which is mild
- Denies
- Cost is excessive
- Patient has not experienced any negative effects.
- Patient has experienced no negative effects from medical cannabis.
- Patient has not experienced any negative effects from medical cannabis.
- Patient has experienced no negative effects from taking medical cannabis.
- Patient experiences no negative effects from medical cannabis use.
- none reported other than cost
- reports no negative effects

- initially felt 'high'. This has resolved.
- Patient states that the only negative effect about medical cannabis is that it increases appetite a little bit too much.
- Dizziness in the beginning of use but no longer has the symptoms anymore.
- Denies side effects
- Patient states she has had no negative impact from use of medical cannabis.
- No negative effects except for the price of medical cannabis
- some fatigue
- cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome
- does report some inconvenience accessing this due to cost and varied experience with client service/care at pharmacies.
- Patient has only used the product once due to pricing
- Patient experienced no negative effects from taking medical cannabis.
- Patient states the only negative effect is dry mouth.
- It is expensive, but otherwise no negative effects noted by patient. Fogginess cleared when prescription was adjusted.
- Patient experiences nausea every once in awhile.
- Patient states that she experienced drowsiness and mental clouding when she first started taking medical cannabis.
- Patient states that sometimes when she takes medical cannabis on an empty stomach she will be get an upset stomach.
- Only had an increase in appetite and fatigue during the day but it does assist with sleeping at night.

## Score of 2

- drowsiness with more effective pain relief regimens
- lack of pain relief
- Poor taste
- no pain relief
- felt like she did not have as much energy to do chores around the house
- 1. Financial cost w/o clinical benefit
- 2. side effects - "high feeling"
- makes too drowsy to take during work
- fatigue and brain fog
- patient reports spaciness
- Some intoxication during the day.
- Patient is not as alert as she is not taking the cannabis.
- mental clouding
- mild light headedness for 10-15 min after dose, no cognitive changes
- No major negative effects have been noted except mild fatigue.

- surprised not using less prescription meds
- Vague leg unsteadiness at night
- sedation
- mild sleepiness
- increased appetite and more sleepiness
- worsening of pain as opioid decreased
- No negative effects, just not helping with the pain like we were hoping it would. It is very cost-prohibitive
- High. However, she likes it as it relaxes her and lets her sleep
- less motivated during the day
- does feel the high a bit at night, would prefer not to, can not use during day at work
- There were some initial side effects, but they have resolved by now
- Stoned sensation, but it is not an issue if taken with food
- some cognitive effects, will try different preparations
- He reported feeling "high" initially. It took a few months, but now he no longer has that feeling and is much better tolerated.
- Fatigue when using the drops
- Patient had to work to into the recommended dosing to help minimize negative side effects such as excessive drowsiness
- None. Travel is a hassle
- Side effect of dry eyes and dry mouth.
- memory issues (potentially)
- Patient has feelings of grogginess and mental clouding in the morning.
- Tired
- mild fatigue
- Mental fuzzy/cloudiness
- impair thinking and she does not feel that she is responsible with her two daughters while experiencing mental clouding
- When her pain is too high for her tolerance, she was directed by pharmacist to take more but the THC creates a high that she does not like and sometimes confusion.
- Mild post-dosing fatigue
- Initial headaches, later resolved with dose adjustment
- increased tinnitus
- Has developed Gynecomastia 3 months ago.
- achy feeling in legs, once in awhile
- when he uses the pen he gets an icky feeling, very mild anxiety
- Initial foggiess following each dose lasting 10 min, then fine.
- minimal dryness in mouth
- Drowsiness although not as bad as gabapentin or opiates.
- drowsiness

- Drowsiness and mental clouding
- He feels that it sometimes does not work as well as he would like it to.
- Fatigue and has a hard time concentrating some times.
- Fatigue and dry mouth
- Increase of THC caused increase appetite and he's a Type II Diabetic
- financial burden
- mild high
- When she needs to take short-term higher doses, she will get queasy.
- THC produces paranoia
- Fatigue
- minor Light headedness from vapor
- Patient states that the THC makes him lethargic, less functional, and impaired.
- Patient has experienced no negative effects.
- minimal appetite increase, easily manageable
- dry eyes: has to blink more
- minimal drowsiness, less with continued use
- Fatigue
- dry mouth
- Has noted some lightheadedness with one of the formulations.
- drowsiness- tends to utilize more at night.
- sublingual use of oil made him sleepy and shaky
- fear of society judgement, nausea, and thirst
- Increase appetite
- bad coughs like congestion
- mild nausea
- munchies
- coughs from vaping
- Notes occasional sensation of "feeling loopy". No "high" noted.
- Dry mouth
- His pain is too great to only use cannabis so he occasionally will take percocet and tylenol.
- Too expensive
- The short acting version she was using made her  
Feel high. She didn't like that
- Some fatigue but also had similar fatigue before starting medical cannabis.
- Occasional drowsiness
- minimal nausea occasionally
- Constipated since he's used cannabis

- Patient states that when it is really bright out or intense lighting he experiences an increase in anxiety. Patient tries to avoid driving post cannabis use. Occasional headaches.
- Very tired and wants to nap and cannot use during the day at work because she's too tired. Foggy during the day when she uses but she eliminates using too much.
- older family members disapprove of the use and interactions when using
- some fatigue on occasion, but that is rare.
- diarrhea
- Does adjustments initially gave her slurred speech.
- increased appetite
- Stated that when he takes the medication, he notices his vision is a bit blurred like, "kind of like when you drink coffee and your vision gets a bit unfocused." He claims it only happens in the beginning and goes away within 2-3 minutes
- Minimal headache and cough from inhalation
- Dry mouth
- some somnolence
- mild fatigue on vaporizer
- experiences side effect of sore throat from vape.
- Dehydration, dry mouth, slight paranoia
- Patient has experienced a slight increase in her anxiety but thinks it could be environmental causes.
- Patient has been diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue and has issues with energy
- She had a vacation and due to marijuana laws, had to make plans to change out her meds or change travel plans to account for not being able to use meds
- Side effects from Cannabis: dry mouth with vaping THC  
Some fogginess, mostly uses at bedtime. Pain still stays away during day if uses caps.  
Feels stoned and tired. Appetite up, no wt gain.
- Dry mouth -- tolerable.
- Fatigue

### Score of 3

- The patient did experience some nausea and other GI upset after use of medication.
- allergic to coconut apparently a component of vehicle, insomnia
- dysphoria
- nausea, loopy feeling
- cognitive effects and didn't help his pain
- fatigue
- Mental irritation and some vision disturbance
- Patient presented to ED with abdominal pain which the patient thinks may have been caused by cannabis pills

- frequent urination
- increased pain
- mental clouding
- may feel sedated during day, is decreasing dosage
- vaporizer hurt lungs
- no benefit high THC, on THC:CBD some benefit but cognitive side effects
- Sedation
- Headache.
- high
- Mental "cloudiness" and trouble thinking clearly
- Patient states that medical cannabis causes mental clouding and sedation.
- Patient has experienced an increase in appetite.
- patient sometimes feels "out of it"
- Drowsiness, and mental clouding
- thc makes her lethargic, clumsy and forgetful
- felt "high" going to use other preparations with less THC
- possible cognitive, patient wants to continue treatment
- dizziness
- made him tired and had mental clouding
- a lot of coughing and sometimes it feels like mucous. forgetfulness and weakness in hands
- sleepiness. Pt was told to discuss this with the pharmacist and try a different preparation.
- cost challenge
- Sedation
- Biggest concern now with considering pregnancy and no data on harm
- Slight weight gain and increase in feeling tired.
- Difficulty accessing cannabis due to affordability and locations
- Patient states that medical cannabis makes him very tired sometimes.
- Some sedation
- reduced motivation
- Had to try multiple different products before finding one that works efficiently and does not upset his stomach. Cannabis Oil upset his stomach- Patient has found that the pill form works much better for him.
- More talkative
- Mild issue w/ feeling out of it, not quite there, not as engaged when using spray, so can't use spray at work. This is not a big issue at home.
- Patient has experienced mild dizziness and anxiety.
- Patient states that medical cannabis causes her to have mental clouding during the day.
- Social stigma, drowsiness



- the ones with the THC make her cloudy so she avoids them.
- some somnolence
- Patient has been experiencing increased appetite and increased sex drive.

## Score of 4

- Did not like the mental clouding/spacing feeling. Did not feel safe to drive
- Oil caused patient to have chronic diarrhea, the spray caused her to not have any taste, and the vape [HIGH THC PRODUCT] she felt "high". Patient has stopped the use of cannabis due to these side effects.
- exacerbated headaches
- She reports she has had several formulations dispensed, does not like the high feeling and unsure she wishes to continue as it is not helping her pain.
- [HIGH THC PRODUCT] she reports cognitive difficulty, fogginess, and not as "with it" after taking [HIGH THC PRODUCT].
- Medical cannabis has caused nausea
- He uses the medication at night only as he states he has mental cloudiness if he takes this during the day.
- high
- headaches related to higher level of CBD  
possible memory issues and tachycardia
- Increased hunger on the higher THC compounds and it increases his hunger.
- More talkative.
- diarrhea, worse on POn prep, better on vaped product
- Patient experienced negative side effects on the oil/vape such as bad mood swings, ect.
- Patient states that the medical cannabis makes him feel "spacey" and forgets things.
- Patient does not like the stigma against medical cannabis.
- Sleepiness, "out of it"

## Score of 5

- does not find any pain relief
- made quality of pain worse
- slowed her overall physical function
- brain fog and fatigue
- She reports a "buzz" and "foggy" feeling after taking the medical cannabis. Does not like how it makes her feel so only takes it about 1-2 times per week.
- Patient experienced painful bladder issues from medical cannabis.
- the capsules were causing irregular bowel movements such as diarrhea
- diarrhea, vapor burns her mouth, she would like to stay certified so that she can try the pill form when she can afford it.
- buzz, high, difficult to function

- Tiredness. Only uses cannabis 2X per week because it makes her sleepy
- dry mouth, sedated and fatigued,
- Anxiety last 2 weeks, necessitating stopping cannabis
- cost is concern
- Patient states that it was very easy to over medicate from vapor cartridges, psychoactive effects became too much for her to do anything. Patient is no longer taking medical cannabis because it was too expensive for her.

## Score of 6

- Shortness of breath; nasal, sinus, and chest congestion; sinus infections. All resolved once she stopped medical cannabis. Was on it for about 5 months total.
- drowsiness, memory loss, nausea, anxiety
- patient had no control over herself, and didn't like how she felt on it
- Patient experienced poor cognitive function while using medical cannabis which caused her to discontinue use in [DATE].
- It makes him feel "goofy"
- Mental status changes.
- somnolence and decreased cognition, Pt decided to discontinue using cannabis
- unable to use regularly due to cognitive effects
- Patient was kicked out of his assisted living facility for using legal medical cannabis
- Blurred vision

## Score of 7: Great Deal of Negative Effects

- it did not work at all at low dose and caused severe side effects (HTN and tachicardia) at higher dose
- Did not find any pain relief and was very nauseated and sick to her stomach.
- drowsiness, limited pain relief
- Headaches severe enough to withdraw from treatment
- severe panic attacks
- Memory and cognitive impairment. Lost when driving.
- very unpleasant mental effects, cognitive impairment
- "Loopy", confused, hallucinations. 3 types of prep tried
- Patient did register and used medical cannabis one time. He experienced urinary retention, insomnia, dry mouth and was unsteady on feet. He made the decision to discontinue and is hesitant with restarting.
- Made her feel dizzy, nauseated, sweaty, and sleepy. Tried several combinations with these effects and it did not help with pain.
- Patient felt high on the medical cannabis and states even after working with the dispensary over a course of few visits, she was still feeling high.
- Medical cannabis caused anxiety

APPENDIX K: HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER-REPORTED NEGATIVE EFFECTS FROM  
MEDICAL CANNABIS

- High and exaggerated mood (both good and bad), side effects severe enough to prevent use
- Loss of motivation, poor sleep, bla, loss of creativity. Pt hated it
- generalized body tingling, weakness, hyperventilating, and vomiting. Groggy and "out of it".
- After 4 months of use patient started to have daily panic attacks which has caused her to discontinue use. She now is taking Xanax to manage the anxiety and panic attacks.