

Q: How will this advice change once marijuana is legal for recreation use, and patients can control their own 'prescribing'?

A: I don't think anyone knows the answer to this. It is hoped that the medical programs will continue, as patients will need a safe and dependable source of medical grade cannabis. Health Canada has hinted at financial support for the program, but nothing firm. There will always be those who seek their own "medicines," but the risks of not knowing what one is taking will continue.

Q: Are there any financial assistance programs specifically for cannabis?

A: Not that I am aware of; Veterans do have a program from Veterans Affairs, and there are some insurance companies that are considering the approval of med cannabis for individuals. Some of the producers do have compassionate pricing programs for those who can show financial need.

Q: What advice do you give patients about marijuana use and driving?

A: I think this is another difficult one, in that it depends upon what and how much you are taking. Smoking or vaping - no driving for 2-4 hrs post use. Ingestion is longer, up to 6 hrs. The higher the THC, the greater the impairment. No one knows about impairment for those who use a CBD-only product.

(MPI Drug Impairment information: <https://www.mpi.mb.ca/en/Rd-Safety/Impaired/Drugs/Pages/drugs.aspx>)

Q: Can the oil be applied directly to an open wound or injected into a tumour to enhance cure?

A: Great question! There is no evidence to suggest that this should be done for all wounds or tumours. There are a few anecdotal reports of the use of cannabis extracts in oil that have helped with healing, but no RCTs. And no, direct injection of these oil products is not recommended. The products have been tested and approved for oral use, not injection.

Q: Someone at the event asked for FPO prescribing guidelines. Do these currently exist, or would they need to be developed?

A: No guidelines exist here in Winnipeg yet. I know the WRHA is working on policy on use in hospitals. I am involved in guideline prep for palliative care patients, but this will not be ready for several months. I expect many groups will be working on this.