

Patient Use of Medical Marijuana: Frequently Asked Questions

The legalization of marijuana has been front and center in community conversation. For parents, it is important to understand that legalization does not mean greater or immediate access to potentially effective treatment for children with certain medical illnesses. You may have questions, and we want to help answer some of them.

What is medical marijuana?

Medical marijuana is marijuana used to treat a medical condition as recommended by a physician.

My child is taking medical marijuana. If admitted, will my child be allowed to continue therapy?

Decisions regarding medical treatment are often complex and challenging. The attending physician will decide whether or not to allow continuation of therapy during an admission, pending verification the medical marijuana is dispensed from a licensed dispensary and the patient is registered in Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. You may also be asked to review and sign a Nationwide Children's Hospital release and waiver of liability form.

Who will administer the medical marijuana to my child (homecare, ambulatory care, inpatient)?

If you/your child is admitted and the attending physician agrees to the continuation of home therapy, only the patient or their registered caregiver may administer the medical marijuana. Regardless of setting, it is illegal for nurses to administer medical marijuana to patients unless they are registered caregivers. Inhalation of marijuana through a vaporizer is not permitted on campus and Ohio law prohibits smoking medical marijuana.

What should I do if my child runs out of medical marijuana while hospitalized?

It is the sole responsibility of the patient/registered caregiver to obtain and maintain supply of medical marijuana. Nationwide Children's is prohibited from stocking any medical marijuana.

Will Nationwide Children's physicians obtain Certificates to Recommend (CTR) and begin recommending medical marijuana?

Currently, no physicians at Nationwide Children's Hospital have obtained certificates to recommend medical marijuana. If you want to learn more, it is best to have a conversation with your licensed provider regarding the risks and potential benefits of medical marijuana.

Where will the medical marijuana be stored when my child is admitted?

Medical marijuana must remain in the physical possession and control of, and be securely stored out of sight by, the patient (if over the age of 18) or registered designated caregiver at all times. Upon discharge, all remaining medical marijuana needs to be removed by the patient or registered caregiver. Nationwide Children's will properly dispose of any medical marijuana left at the hospital.

My child is on an investigational study using marijuana-derived medication. How will this be managed?

All patients receiving investigational drugs will continue to be managed according to those study protocols and are not impacted by legalization of medical marijuana in Ohio.

My child is prescribed Epidiolex™. Will she/he be allowed to take this if admitted?

Yes, at the discretion of your licensed provider. Epidiolex is an FDA-approved medication and is not considered medical marijuana per the State of Ohio.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to your Nationwide Children's care provider for additional information and assistance.



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