Only physicians registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta may authorize cannabis for medical purposes in Alberta. Applicable Standards of Practice (SOP) must be met when pursuing this activity, including but not limited to: Cannabis for Medical Purposes SOP; Informed Consent SOP; Telemedicine SOP; and, Prescribing: Drugs with Potential for Misuse or Diversion SOP.

STANDARD REQUIREMENTS - CHECKLIST FOR CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES SOP

During initial assessment, including accepting transfer of care from another healthcare provider:

☐ Other conventional therapies were tried with the patient but found to be ineffective
☐ Patient risk of addiction was assessed using a standard addiction risk tool
☐ Patient provided informed consent (in accordance with the related standard of practice)
☐ Reviewed patient medication history & obtained a patient medication profile using prescription databases (e.g. Netcare/ Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN) and Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP))

When authorizing medical cannabis:

☐ Completed a Patient Medical Document
☐ Provided a copy of the Patient Medical Document to CPSA within 7 days of completion
☐ Checked compliance with federal regulations including Health Canada’s Information for Health Care Professionals

During stabilization and continuing long-term authorizations:

☐ Reviewed patient medication history reviewed periodically & at least once every three months
☐ At each reassessment, the continued benefits and risks of cannabis use were evaluated
☐ Ongoing care, for underlying condition for which cannabis was being used, was provided

NOTE:

❖ Alberta Physicians MAY NOT dispense cannabis to any patient or person OR apply to become a licensed producer
❖ It is expected that any authorization for cannabis will follow the evidence and sound clinical judgement.
❖ The rationale for the authorization must be documented within the patient medical document.
❖ Other professionals in the patient’s circle of care should be notified of the authorization
❖ CPSA discourages cannabis authorizations for pediatric patients based on evidence of harm to the developing brain and as per the position of the Canadian Pediatric society (See Cannabis and Canada’s children and youth)