

# Our Policy Went up in Smoke ! CHNC Conference Presentation

Developed by: Nan Cleator, Esther Shainblum  
Revised by Karen Curry for CHNC Presentation



# Learning Objectives

- Enhance awareness of current Canadian medical marijuana regulations and identify the issues facing home care organizations
- Identify practical approaches and strategies/tools that provide a consistent approach, clarify roles, support safe practices, and uphold a client/family centered approach

# Medical Marijuana Legislation

- **Controlled Drugs & Substances Act**
- **Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR)**
  - Came into effect Aug. 24, 2016
  - Allows possession/use of non-pharmaceutical with a prescription
  - Increases access
  - Allows some possession by health professionals for care of clients

# About Medical Marijuana

- Current federal regulations permits certain individuals to legally possess & use restricted amounts
- Manage symptoms not necessarily responding to conventional medical therapies



# Issues related to Non-Pharmaceutical Medical Marijuana

**Limited research about benefits, risks, dosing**

**Ethical – Client versus employee/volunteer**

## **Employee/Volunteer Issues:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke/vapours
- Potential odour on clothes/hair
- Fire/explosion hazards
- Client behaviors affecting safety of self/others

## **Legalities:**

- Illegal possession/use
- Potential theft/loss/misappropriation
- Local police support required in certain situations

# So what are the issues for VON?

- New regulations increase public access – likely see more
- VON has no clear process to deal with requests from clients who want:
  - To use it on VON premises/in programs/homes
  - A VON employee administer it
  - A VON employee/volunteer to assist with using it
- VON has no clear process to deal with OH&S concerns

# Medical Marijuana Working Group

- Representation from Legal, OH&S, Practice, CSS, Nursing and Hospice Care
- Solid draft of the Policy statements/rationale
  - Early draft of the procedure
- Tools – in early draft



## Policy addresses/provides direction on:

- About Client use **HIROC, 2016**
- Respecting client choice
- Legalities
- Use on VON premises/in VON programs/in client homes
- Non-pharmaceutical versus pharmaceutical
- Safety of VON employees, volunteers and other clients
- Roles/responsibilities/conditions related to client use
  - Consent & waiver
  - Documentation
- Does not address VON Employees or Volunteers who consume Medical Marijuana in the workplace



# Tools to Operationalize the Policy

## **VON Canada Medical Marijuana Policy Summary & Waiver for VON Clients**

Familiarize clients with VON policies & get agreement with conditions for use of Medical Marijuana

## **Client Fact Sheet**

Simple language fact sheet left with client as a reminder of conditions

## **Client Plan**

Documentation of the plan in the client record



# Waiver



## VON Canada Consent and Waiver for Medical Marijuana

*(For use with Clients attending VON Programs or Staying at VON facility)*

### VON Canada:

- Respects the laws in Canada that allow you to have and use small amounts of medical marijuana to help you with pain or discomfort from your illness.
- Respects that clients have the right to choose to use medical marijuana.
- Expects you to keep your medical marijuana safe and to prepare it and use it on your own or with help from family or friends.
- Does not allow VON employees or volunteers to help you with your medical marijuana.
- Must provide a safe and smoke free work place for VON employees and volunteers.
- Expects you to meet the conditions in the **Medical Marijuana Fact Sheet and this document.**

### In the next part of this document, you will be agreeing to certain conditions:

I \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the following conditions about my use of medical **(client first and last name)** marijuana while I am at VON Programs or while I am on VON property:

- 1. I will accept the risks of using marijuana as discussed with my doctor.**
2. I will use my marijuana in the way my doctor prescribed it.
3. I will ask my producer or doctor for information about how to prepare or take marijuana.
4. I will provide my proof of Registration with the Minister (the document that shows I am allowed to take possess and take medical marijuana) to VON and let VON know if there are changes to my registration (for example if it expires or is cancelled or taken away).

# Fact Sheet



## Medical Marijuana Fact Sheet

*This information is for clients who use Medical Marijuana*

### **VON Canada:**

- Respects the laws in Canada that allow you to have and use small amounts of medical marijuana to help you manage the suffering or discomforts from your illness.
- Respects your choice to use marijuana
- Expects clients who use marijuana to keep it safe, prepare it and use it on their own or with help from family or friends
- Does not allow VON workers (employees and volunteers) to help clients with their marijuana use
- Is required to provide a safe and smoke free work place for VON workers.

### **As such, VON Canada asks that you:**

1. Keep your marijuana in a safe place
2. Use it in the way your doctor prescribed it
3. Check with your doctor or supplier if you need information on how to get it ready or use it
4. Get your marijuana ready and use it on your own or ask family or friends to help.
5. Arrange for family or friends to help you if you are not able to get to the place to smoke or vape on your own

### **In your home:**

6. Keep VON workers safe from second hand smoke or vapours:
  - Keep your home smoke-free during visits and for 60 minutes before visits
  - Clear the air by opening windows, using an air purifier or fan
  - Smoke or vape outside (if possible)
  - Smoke or vape next to an open window or door.
  - Smoke or vape in a room as far from the care spot as possible.
  - Smoke or vape in a room that is free from items that hold smoke (carpet, curtains, cloth furniture).
7. Contact VON if your home is not smoke or vapour free before a visit to:

HEALTH STARTS AT HOME



# Client Plan



## Client Plan for Medical Marijuana

This is the plan that is developed with clients to provide a safe environment when they are using non-pharmaceutical medical marijuana:

- At VON programs
- On VON premises (e.g. Hospice)
- Smoking or vaping in their own home

Client: First Name _____ Last Name _____		Date of Birth: _____
<b>Method of Marijuana Use:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Vapourizer <input type="checkbox"/> In tea/drink <input type="checkbox"/> Oil <input type="checkbox"/> In food <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
<b>Assistance Required for Self Use:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Dependent <input type="checkbox"/> Completely dependent Identify the type of assistance required and who will provide it:		
<b>Strategies to Facilitate a Smoke/Vapour Free Work Place for VON Employees/Volunteers</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educate clients about how they can keep VON employees and volunteers safe from second hand smoke or vapours by providing the Fact Sheet "Client Use of Medical Marijuana" <input type="checkbox"/> Involve the client in choosing as many strategies as possible:		
<b>Location:</b> In the home, the client will smoke/use vapourizer: <input type="checkbox"/> outside the home <input type="checkbox"/> in a room as far from the care location as possible <input type="checkbox"/> in a room such as the bathroom or kitchen that doesn't have items that hold smoke – carpet, curtains, cloth furniture  On VON premises, the client will smoke/use vapourizer: <input type="checkbox"/> in designated smoking area <input type="checkbox"/> off VON property	<b>Alternative Care/Service Locations:</b> <b>Make visit at:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> an outdoor location (e.g. screened porch) <input type="checkbox"/> the home of neighbour, friend or family <input type="checkbox"/> in a clinic setting  <b>Other Strategies:</b>	<b>Timing of Care/Service:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Client will keep the air smoke and vapour free during VON visits <input type="checkbox"/> Client will keep the air smoke free within 1 hour of VON visits <input type="checkbox"/> Client will contact VON to delay/cancel visits if they must smoke right before a visit
<b>Alternative to smoking marijuana</b> <input type="checkbox"/> client will vapourize rather than smoke to reduce second hand smoke & odours <input type="checkbox"/> client will use marijuana in alternative forms (e.g. oil, drink, food) <input type="checkbox"/> client will contact MD/NP for alternative treatment for pain/symptom management (e.g. pharmaceutical marijuana)	<b>Ventilation Client will</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke in a room that doesn't have items that hold smoke (e.g. carpet, curtains, bed linens, cloth furniture) <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke or vape next to an open window or door. <input type="checkbox"/> Run a fan or air purifier while smoking and after <input type="checkbox"/> Client will put on fan or air purifier in the room where care/service is provided to clear the air	



# Our Plan

- Supported client choice but wanted to have a hands off approach for our staff/ volunteers.

- Policy has 4 sections:**

1. Pharmaceutical medical marijuana (i.e. comes from a pharmacy and has Drug Information Number (DIN)).
2. Non-pharmaceutical medical marijuana (i.e. not from a pharmacy) and will be used by the client in their home
3. Non-pharmaceutical medical marijuana (i.e. not from a pharmacy) and will be possessed and used in VON programs/on VON premises.
4. Non-pharmaceutical medical marijuana (i.e. not from a pharmacy) and employees will administer or assist with in extenuating circumstances

# UP in Smoke

•**Received a number of requests to administer MM for:**

- a) A 2 yr old client with seizures who was receiving palliative respite care.
- b) A 85 yr old lady receiving MM oil for pain and no available caregivers to assist with treatment.

**How do we handle exceptional requests and ensure we are being client and family centred?**

**Back to the drawing board .....**



# Exceptional Cases

- Policy provides appropriate direction but had to ensure flexibility and support for how to manage exceptional cases.
- Build in flexible approach to exceptional service requests with some limitations
  - Marijuana Oil – measurable dosage

## Tools – Rebuilt

- Tools rebuilt to address exceptional client situations and limited to marina oil.
  - *Care Plan, Fact Sheet and Consent & Waiver*, Referral request review – what do I need to do to
- Staff Education /Manager education on how to manager a referral requests that are exceptional situation



# Up in Smoke - Legalization of Marijuana

**Will have impact and need to readdress our policy when law comes into affect.**

- 1) Decriminalization – less kids going forward with criminal records
- 2) Regulation – Every province will have to determine how to manage

## Changes to law/policy

- Nurse Practitioners in Ontario can now prescribe narcotics including medical marijuana (May 2017)

# Next Steps

- Right now, policy work is a work in progress and have draft tools available to support consults about how to manage requests.
- Goal is to support client choice but also to ensure process and staff safety is considered with any request .
- Staff education and knowledge building about different forms/ options to obtain medical marijuana.

# Lessons Learned

- Working group helped us to really understand the issues/ risks and come up with approach that worked for our home care practice
- Work has helped provide direction with a number of challenging consults and requests for service.
- OHS initially concerned about second hand smoke ..
- Legal provided input on law
- Need to address issues as they come up – scent free workplace, may have scent from marijuana use in the home

# THANK YOU



**Karen Curry**

[Karen.curry@von.ca](mailto:Karen.curry@von.ca)

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