



Fairchild Medical Center

Fairchild Medical Center Proposition 64 – The Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA)

Fairchild Medical Center and Clinics recognize that the recreational and medicinal use of cannabis products has continued to gain popularity and with Proposition 64, will become legal in California on January 1, 2018. Our aim in presenting this position statement is to inform the members of the community who utilize our services as to our views and concerns regarding the impact on individual and collective health.

Cannabis has been used as an intoxicant and a medicinal substance by many cultures around the globe for many hundreds of years. While historical records are clear as to a wide variety of usages, there is a specific lack of disciplined scientific studies to inform us as to the specific characteristics and usages of these products. For other medications that we might select to treat the ailments and symptoms of a given patient, we have a wealth of information about what can be expected from the use of that pharmaceutical substance. Problems that may arise due to over dosage, inappropriate usage, specific side effects, and even the range of anticipated benefits are all well organized and laid out in a way that allows for accurate prescribing and effective comprehensive treatment. The lack of this type of information about cannabis and its associated products is a distinct disadvantage to providers of medical services.

Young children are at increased risk with marijuana in the home. Edible products are often produced and labelled to mimic sweets and candies, and are not supplied in child-proof packaging. Due to the small body size of young children, they are more prone to have severe reactions to exposures. Ingestions have drastically increased in other states where legalization has occurred, resulting in increased ER visits and even one intensive care admission. Children react differently than adults, and may have behavioral changes such as sleepiness or irritability. They may have increased heart rate and blood pressure, or they may have slowed heart rate and breathing. Decreased consciousness leading to coma or stopping breathing altogether can also occur. Seizures and anxiety can occur. The long term effects on neurodevelopment are unknown.

Older children and adolescents are at risk of changes in heart rate, acute psychosis, and there is a slowing of psychomotor performance. There is an association between teen use of marijuana and the development of schizophrenia in early adulthood. With inhalational use, there is a risk of an abnormal collection of air between the lung and chest wall and air outside the lungs and heart which can cause the lung to collapse or the heart to not fill properly. There is a risk of asthma exacerbation with smoke exposure.

In our professional experience, we have observed many regular adult users of marijuana to exhibit mood instability, slowed cognitive processing, and reduced ability and/or motivation to perform complex and rigorous tasks. These observations are supported by the medically recognized "cannabis use disorder" which develops in roughly 10% of regular cannabis users and is associated with cognitive impairment, poor school or work performance, and psychiatric comorbidity such as mood disorders, and psychosis. Studies suggest that cannabis users are more likely to abuse other harmful substances.

For these and other reasons, we are unable to wholeheartedly and without reservation endorse the use of cannabis products. Cannabis products are frequently being recommended by nonmedically trained individuals who may have very different concerns from those of us who are trained to consider the entire spectrum of treatment. We do respect that the medicinal qualities of these products will likely prove to be beneficial. We hope that the potential side effects will be researched and detailed in a way that the potential for problems can be anticipated and avoided.

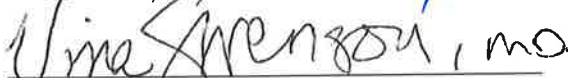
Californians have voted for the legalization of recreational marijuana. The "green rush" is on and commercial growers are looking for land and profit. California is already producing seven times what it uses for both medical and recreational purposes.


Many Northern California Counties including Butte, Lassen, Tehama, Mendocino, Calaveras, and Siskiyou are scrambling to combat increased crime, environmental damage and pollution, wildlife harm, as well as polarized citizens. Some are placing emergency moratoriums on commercial growth.

We support the City of Yreka and Siskiyou County in banning commercial activity until the following questions can be considered: Will this commercial enterprise promote the health and wellness of our citizens? How will commercial growth impact our neighborhoods, communities, and the environment? Will law enforcement and our DA/Sheriff's department have the resources to confront increased crime, neighborhood complaints, illegal grows, and expensive prosecution? Do other counties that have now restricted commercial grows know something that we do not? Will this reduce or increase the cartels growing in the forest?

Our strongest hope is that patients in this community will be mindful of some of the uncertainties surrounding cannabis use, and are willing to share with their providers when they are using cannabis products, as well as informing us of what type of product, the CBD content and THC content. Our aim is to continue to provide high-quality medical services to everyone in the community and to offer our pertinent guidance and advice where it is applicable and helpful. We are not interested in a punitive or judgmental stance on the use of these substances but feel at this time that the potential risk for individual and collective harm significantly outweighs the potential benefit.


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