

Medicinal Cannabis: Education for Health Care Providers

Program Modules & Modules Objectives:

1. An overview and introduction to cannabis

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Describe the history of cannabis use
- Explain US marijuana regulatory history and current status
- Distinguish marijuana from hemp
- Identify the differences among types of cannabinoids (phytocannabinoids, synthetic cannabinoids, endocannabinoids)

2. The Endocannabinoid System

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Define endocannabinoids and discriminate between endo- and exogenous cannabinoids
- Describe the functions of the endocannabinoid system
- Discuss CB1 and CB2 receptors and differentiate between them

3. Medicinal cannabis safety, cannabis-drug interactions, cannabis in cancer care and palliative care

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Discuss the safety of medicinal cannabis, and compare with alternative therapies
- Discuss selected conditions for which medicinal cannabis is approved in Pennsylvania
- Review medicinal cannabis use in palliative care and cancer
- Identify important drug-drug interactions between medical cannabis and other medications

4. Medicinal cannabis in pain management

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Describe the complexities of classifying pain
- Review the use of medicinal cannabis in the management of different types of pain, and identify situations when medicinal cannabis may be recommended.
- Discuss potential co-administration or overlap of medical cannabis with opioids in the management of pain

5. Misuse, abuse and addiction

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Define cannabis use disorder and name 2 symptoms of cannabis use disorder
- Explain the association between cannabis use and mental health disorders

- Identify strategies for assessing patients with cannabis use disorder

- Review treatment options for patients with cannabis use disorder

6A. Regulatory and legal aspects of medicinal cannabis in Pennsylvania: for physicians

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Explain pertinent Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program rules and regulations

- Describe Federal regulations regarding medicinal marijuana

- Discuss risks and potential liabilities of recommending medicinal cannabis therapy

6B. Regulatory and legal aspects of medicinal cannabis in Pennsylvania: for pharmacists

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Explain Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program rules and regulations

- Describe Federal regulations regarding medicinal marijuana

- Discuss pharmacists' roles in medical marijuana dispensaries

- Describe the types of communications between healthcare providers across practice settings that support appropriate patient selection for use of medicinal marijuana with qualifying diagnoses

6C. Regulatory and legal aspects of medicinal cannabis in Pennsylvania: for nurse practitioners

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Explain Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program rules and regulations

- Describe Federal regulations regarding medicinal marijuana

- Review the roles of nurse practitioners in medicinal cannabis dispensaries

- Describe the types of communications between healthcare providers across practice settings that support appropriate patient selection for use of medicinal marijuana with qualifying diagnoses

7. Current research in medicinal cannabis: program wrap-up

Objectives for the learner, who upon completion should be able to:

- Review the findings of current epidemiological studies

- Discuss general guidelines for responsible medicinal cannabis use by patients

- Locate the Pennsylvania DOH Medical Marijuana Program website and identify resources that are available there