



Oregon State Board of Nursing Interpretive Statement

Nursing Practice with Clients Who use Cannabis

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Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) Interpretive Statements are not laws (statutes or rules) and are not intended to be legal advice. OSBN Interpretive Statements are adopted by the Board as a means of providing information to licensees who seek to engage in safe nursing practice. Licensees are encouraged to review the applicable laws themselves and, if necessary, obtain their own legal advice.

OSBN Statement Nursing Practice with Clients who use Cannabis

The Oregon State Board of Nursing recognizes the legal use of cannabis in Oregon for medical purposes by qualifying persons and for recreational use by adults aged 21 and over. The Board recognizes that cannabis currently remains classified as a controlled substance under federal law. The Board also recognizes that nurses practice with persons (clients) who use cannabis.

Oregon state law provides that a nurse licensed under ORS 678.040 to 678.101 may discuss the medical use of marijuana with a person with whom the nurse has a patient-provider relationship.¹

Additionally, Oregon state law prohibits discipline, in certain circumstances, of a licensed APRN for advising certain qualified persons about the risks and benefits associated with the medical use of marijuana.²

However, per Oregon Administrative Rule 851-045-0065, each nurse is responsible to practice consistent with current and evolving science and in adherence to accepted and prevailing professional nursing practice standards and guidelines. For a nurse who practices with a client who uses cannabis, the nurse's practice would include application of current cannabis-related science and cannabis-related professional practice standards and guidelines to facilitate a safe practice and client safety.

The following are cannabis-related resources that may provide a starting point for nurses interested in learning more about this topic:

¹ ORS 475C.916

² ORS 475C.891.

Americans for Safe Access. Patient guides. <https://www.safeaccessnow.org/guides>

Also: Regulating patient health https://american-safe-access.s3.amazonaws.com/whatsinyourcannabis/Regulating_Patient_Health.pdf

A consumer's guide to cannabis safety:
https://www.safeaccessnow.org/know_whats_in_your_cannabis

American Nurses Association (2021). Therapeutic use of marijuana and related cannabinoids.
<https://www.nursingworld.org/~49c0a0/globalassets/practiceandpolicy/nursing-excellence/ana-position-statements/therapeutic-use-of-marijuana-and-related-cannabinoids-position-statement-final-2021.pdf>.

Canadian Nurses Association. Harm reduction for non-medical cannabis use (2017).
<https://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/policy-advocacy/advocacy-priorities/cannabis>

Klein, Tracy A. PhD, ARNP, FAAN, FAANP; Clark, Carey S. PhD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAN. Therapeutic use of cannabis in the US. *The Nurse Practitioner* 47(12):p 16-25, December 2022. | DOI: 10.1097/01.NPR.0000884880.81603.c5
(<https://journals.lww.com/tnpj/pages/articleviewer.aspx?year=2022&issue=12000&article=00005&type=Fulltext>)

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health. Cannabis and cannabinoids: what you need to know. <https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/cannabis-marijuana-and-cannabinoids-what-you-need-to-know>

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (2018). Guidelines for Medical Marijuana.
<https://www.ncsbn.org/nursing-regulation/practice/marijuana-guidelines.page>

Oregon Center for Evidence Based Policy. Systematically testing the evidence on marijuana (STEM). <https://www.cannabisevidence.org/>

Oregon Health Authority - Medical Marijuana Program
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/CHRONICDISEASE/MEDICALMARIJUANAPROGRAM/Pages/index.aspx>

Oregon Health Authority - Cannabis and Your Health
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/marijuana/pages/index.aspx>

Wickenhagen, Sarah, DNP, RN, FNP. The role of nurses in discussing marijuana and substance use during healthcare visits. *OSBN Sentinel* 42(4): p 15-16. Fall 2023.
https://www.oregon.gov/osbn/Documents/Sentinel_2023_November.pdf

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