



MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

MEDICAL MARIJUANA POSSESSION

Effective Date: May 17, 2012

Policy #: PH - 13

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- I. PURPOSE:** To describe procedures for handling medical marijuana legally in the possession of patients at the time of admission.
- II. POLICY:** **Montana State Hospital (MSH) recognizes that Montana Law permits certain** individuals to legally possess and use small amounts of marijuana to help manage symptoms of debilitating medical conditions.

MSH provides co-occurring treatment for psychiatric illnesses and substance abuse. Effective treatment for these conditions normally requires the individual to abstain from using commonly abused substances including alcohol, marijuana, illicit drugs, and prescription drugs.

Marijuana use is not permitted for persons served at MSH. Marijuana use may not be ordered or authorized by any prescriber on the Hospital's staff.

When legal authority to possess marijuana can be established, it will be treated similarly to legally prescribed medications that may be in the individual's possession at the time of admission. Medical marijuana will be stored in a designated lock box in the hospital safe area.

At the time of discharge, the primary Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP) responsible for the person's treatment will make a decision concerning whether the marijuana may safely be returned to the individual. If, in the opinion of the LIP, a determination is made that the marijuana may not be safely returned, it will be destroyed under the supervision of at least two employees including a supervisor or it may be turned over to law enforcement authorities.

If authorization to possess marijuana cannot be quickly established at the time of admission, it may be disposed of or turned over to law enforcement personnel. Legal authority to possess marijuana is established by presenting a valid Registry Identification Card issued by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

- III. DEFINITIONS:** None
- IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Director of Nursing or designated Nurse Manager will maintain the key to the lock box in the safe area.

V. PROCEDURE:

- A. At the time of admission, hospital staff completes an inventory of all belongings in the possession of persons admitted for services. If a person is found to be in possession of marijuana, they will be asked to present a valid Registry Identification Card.
- B. If the person can present a valid card, the marijuana and Registry Identification Card will be placed in the designated lock box in the hospital safe (C220). The Director of Nursing or designated Nurse Manager will maintain the key to the lock box in the nurse supervisors' office.
- C. If the person cannot produce a valid Registry Identification Card, the marijuana will be destroyed under the supervision of at least two employees including a supervisor, or it may be turned over to law enforcement authorities.
- D. The Hospital will not store paraphernalia commonly used to smoke marijuana such as pipes, bongs, etc. Paraphernalia will be destroyed or turned over to law enforcement authorities.
- E. The Hospital Administrator and Director of Nursing will be informed anytime a patient is in possession of marijuana on admission.

VI. REFERENCES: Montana Medical Marijuana Act – Sec. 50-46-201, M.C.A.

VII. COLLABORATED WITH: Hospital Administrator, Director Of Nursing, DPHHS Quality Assurance Division

VIII. RESCISSIONS: #PH-13, *Medical Marijuana Possession*, dated February 24, 2009; #PH-13, *Medical Marijuana Possession* dated August 3, 2007.

IX. DISTRIBUTION: All hospital policy manuals

X. REVIEW AND REISSUE DATE: May 2015

XI. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: Director of Nursing

XII. ATTACHMENTS: None

_____/____/____
John W. Glueckert Date
Hospital Administrator

_____/____/____
Thomas Gray Date
Medical Director