

FSPMR MEDICAL MARIJUANA POSITION STATEMENT

May 5, 2016

Florida Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Position Statement on Medical Marijuana

Case reports and some studies have been published which attempt to address the efficacy of marijuana-based products for treatment of various medical disorders. Medical marijuana use should be evidence-based and determined by standards of care. Ideally, if scientific evidence supports the use of cannabis-derived substances to treat specific medical conditions, the medication should be subject to the approval process of the FDA. Currently the federal government still classifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug with no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. Non-regulated medical marijuana products have inconsistent purity and places the user at risk for significant side effects and potential medical harm. The safety of long term use of cannabis based products has not yet been established. There is no evidence to support the use of any form of smoked cannabis. Additional research that is supported by the federal government would be warranted, including an assessment of beneficial effects and adverse effects. Current policies should not be altered until adequate clinical evidence supports such change.