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foundation  
OF CANADA

For additional Information Sheets or to learn more about other brain tumour topics, visit [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca)

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada Information Sheets are provided as an informational and educational tool and are not intended to replace the advice or instruction of a professional healthcare practitioner, or to substitute for medical care. We urge you to seek specific medical advice on individual matters of concern.

**Note: Medicinal Cannabis is not a Health Canada approved treatment. To date, there is no clear evidence on the relative benefits and risks of medical cannabis on the treatment of brain tumours. The purpose of this article is for information and educational purposes only. It is not intended to substitute the advice of a physician.**

## Information Sheet

### Medical Cannabis FAQ

#### Consumer Information

Cannabis is not an approved therapeutic product and the provision of this information should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes, or of marijuana generally.

When the product should not be used Cannabis should not be used if you: are under the age of 25, are allergic to any cannabinoid or to smoke, have serious liver, kidney, heart or lung disease, have a personal or family history of serious mental disorders such as schizophrenia, psychosis, depression, or bipolar disorder, are pregnant, are planning to get pregnant, or are breast-feeding, are a man who wishes to start a family, have a history of alcohol or drug abuse or substance dependence.

#### What is Cannabis?

*Cannabis*, also known as marijuana, is a plant that is grown in many parts of the world today. The Cannabis plant produces a resin containing compounds called cannabinoids. Cannabinoids are active chemicals in Cannabis that cause drug-like effects throughout the body, including the central nervous system and the immune system.

#### What Are the Active Ingredients in Medicinal Cannabis?

The two main components of marijuana are: 9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Cannabidiol (CBD):

- THC produces the psychoactive effects of marijuana. It also has analgesic, anti-nausea, appetite stimulant and anti-spastic effects.
- CBD does not cause psychoactive effects. It has neuroprotective, anti-inflammatory, anti-anxiety, anti-epileptic and anti-psychotic properties.

#### Is Medical Cannabis Legal in Canada?

Doctors can now issue Medical Documents to authorize patients to purchase medical cannabis from a Canadian Licensed Producer (LP). The decision of which licensed producer to use is up to the person who is given authorization by their physician. Visit the Health Canada website to learn more about Canadian Licensed Producers and the process to get authorization.

... continued on Page 2

you are **not** alone

## Additional support, information and education offered by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada:

Adult, Pediatric and Non-Malignant Brain Tumour Handbooks available in English and French.

"A Friend in Hope" children's storybook available in English and French.

20+ Adult Support Groups across Canada (in-person and virtual)

Toll-free information and support line

BrainWAVE Pediatric Support Program

Print BrainStorm Newsletter  
Email Newsletters:  
• E-BrainStorm  
• Peace of Mind

"Grey Matters" Blog

All patient resources are available free-of-charge in Canada. Call 1-800-265-5106 or visit [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca) for additional details and information.

Since 2013, federal regulations have allowed Canadians with medical documentation to access herbal cannabis from Canadian LPs.

### Who Can Get Medical Cannabis Authorization?

Each patient is assessed individually by a medical doctor. If the doctor determines the patient is a suitable candidate for medical cannabis they will be given a medical document that provides authorization to contact a Canadian LP.

### Do I have to smoke my medical cannabis?

There are diverse ways to consume medical cannabis, including vaporizing, and consuming oils and other derivative products. One method of consumption may be more helpful for managing a specific symptom, than another. The LP can assist you in finding the mode of consumption that would work best for you.

### How do I choose the right strain for my condition and symptoms?

The therapeutic effects of cannabis vary according to the content and ratio of THC and CBD compounds of the specific strain type. Typically an educator associated with the LP can assist you in choosing the strain that is most appropriate to help you manage your symptoms.

### What Are the Possible Side Effects of Medical Cannabis?

Information on side effects for therapeutic use of medical cannabis is limited, however, some known side effects include euphoria, intoxication-like effects, dizziness, drowsiness, impaired memory, disorientation, dry mouth, and rapid heartbeat. This is not a complete list. For more information, please refer to [Health Canada's Consumer Information – Cannabis information.](#)

**Please consult with your doctor regarding other possible side effects and what steps to take if you experience anything unexpected after using medical cannabis.**

Cannabis and cannabinoids have been studied in clinical trials for ways to manage side effects of cancer and cancer therapies, including pain relief, nausea, vomiting, and anxiety and may help with sleep and appetite. For more information, please read the Ask The Expert article: Medical Cannabis and Brain Tumours on [braintumour.ca](http://braintumour.ca).



**braintumour**  
foundation  
OF CANADA

205 Horton St E  
Suite 203  
London, Ontario  
N6B 1K7

📞 519.642.7755  
1 [800] 265.5106  
📠 519.642.7192  
[www.braintumour.ca](http://www.braintumour.ca)

