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| <b>STRONG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL POLICY MANUAL</b> | <b>DATE POSTED</b> |
| <b>SECTION 7. Medication Standards</b>        | 2/1/16             |
| <b>7.01.3 Medical Marijuana</b>               | <b>PAGE 1 of 2</b> |

## **POLICY**

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

UR Medicine and Strong Memorial Hospital (SMH) acknowledge that the legalization of medical marijuana in NY State introduces a new therapeutic option that may be potentially useful for select patients who have responded inadequately to traditional therapies and have a condition that is an approved use in NYS. The decision to certify a patient for the use of medical marijuana will be based upon an established therapeutic relationship between an authorized provider and the patient in the context of considering the risks and benefits of all available therapeutic options. Patient referral expressly for the purposes of certification for use of medical marijuana is not acceptable or permitted.

SMH recognizes that while New York law permits medical use of marijuana for registered patients with a qualifying condition, medical marijuana use will not be permitted at SMH, subject to certain limited exemptions discussed herein.

### **SCOPE:**

This policy is applicable to all adults and minors in SMH. Use will not be allowed in areas covered under the hospital license including inpatient units, clinics, infusion settings, or other outpatient settings.

This policy does not affect the use of an IND-approved marijuana- or cannabis-derived product for clinical research under the authority of an RSRB approved research protocol.

### **PROCEDURES:**

#### **Use or Possession of Medical Marijuana by Patients**

1. Medical marijuana use or possession is not permitted on the premises of SMH.
2. If staff of SMH determines that a patient possesses medical marijuana, staff should determine whether the individual is permitted to possess the medical marijuana in a manner consistent with the registry program by validating either:
  - a. Via the registry verification card provided by the patient or caregiver, or
  - b. Matching the name of the patient with the name listed on the medical marijuana or medical marijuana product labeling.
3. If the patient is identified as a registered user, staff will ask the patient or certified caregiver to remove the medical marijuana immediately from the premises. If it is not possible for the patient or registered caregiver to remove the medical marijuana from the premises immediately, it will be secured with the patient's other valuables per SMH policy.
4. If the patient does not have a current patient registry number, facility staff should handle the medical marijuana in accordance with the SMH policy on disposal of illegal drugs brought to the facility.
5. The provider will document registry program participation in the medical record as part of the patient medical history and/or medication reconciliation process.
6. If the patient was admitted due to an adverse event thought related to medical marijuana, the event will be reported internally and the certifying provider will be notified for potential NYS DOH reporting.

#### **REQUEST FOR AN EXEMPTION TO THE SMH MEDICAL MARIJUANA POLICY**

1. An attending physician may request an exemption to this policy to permit use of medical marijuana for a patient during an inpatient admission by completing the following:
  - a. Document in the medical record the indication for medical marijuana and the severity of the health consequences of discontinuing current, on-going therapy with medical marijuana.
  - b. Notify the Chief Medical Officer or designee of the request for an exemption to the policy, along with documentation of the indication and severity of the health consequences of discontinuing therapy.
2. The exception to the policy must be approved by the Chief Medical Officer or designee prior to initiation of therapy.
3. Patients must have a current patient registry number. Registration for marijuana from another state will not be allowed. Proof of registration must be substantiated by the patient, designated hospital personnel with the patient, parent/legal guardian or registered designated caregiver.

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| <b>7.01.3 Medical Marijuana</b>               | <b>PAGE 2 of 2</b> |

4. Proof of medical marijuana registration may be validated by the designated hospital personnel via either process below:
  - a. Via the registry verification card provided by the patient, or
  - b. Matching the name of the patient listed on the medical marijuana or medical marijuana product labeling.
5. Medical marijuana registration will not be accepted if the expiration date has lapsed (typically one year).
6. In no case will medical marijuana nor medical marijuana product be supplied by the hospital. Medical marijuana must be provided by the patient or certified caregiver in the original packaging from the dispensary including the legally required labeling. Only product within the expiration date will be accepted for use.
7. Forms of marijuana, other than medical marijuana approved via NYS statute, will be handled according to SMH policy for securing unauthorized drugs.
 

Note: Medical marijuana from states other than NY is considered contraband and should follow the same site security policies for securing unauthorized drugs.

**Ordering, Labeling and Administration for Use Under Exemption:**

1. Medical marijuana will be included in hospital-based medication reconciliation policies and procedures.
2. Hospital HCP's may not change the dose or frequency of cannabinoids beyond holding doses or discontinuing use during the hospital stay.
3. Medical marijuana will appear as a continuation of therapy order within the electronic medical record (EMR). The order is not intended to be a medication order. Medical marijuana will be listed on the medication administration record (MAR) as "Medical Marijuana (Patient's Own Supply)".
4. Medical marijuana will be stored securely by placing the manufacturer's package in an automated dispensing cabinet (ADC) or in locked storage area as designated by the hospital within a plastic self-sealing bag and a manual perpetual inventory log. Record the initial count to the extent possible.
5. Pharmacy will generate an order-specific label for the medical marijuana to permit use of the bar code medication administration process to document administration.
6. The nurse will administer and document medical marijuana on the MAR as per the facilities medication administration policies, including bar-code scan on administration where applicable.
7. Use of vaporized medical marijuana will only be allowed in a private room with the door closed according to NY state regulations.

**Discharge:**

1. The HCP is not obligated to address the ongoing use of medical marijuana at the time of discharge, beyond the medication reconciliation process. The patient or certified caregiver should be referred to the certifying provider of any information concerning continued use of medical marijuana following discharge.
2. Upon discharge, the patient's medical marijuana will be returned to either the registered patient or registered caregiver.
3. The patient or registered caregiver will perform discharge medical marijuana inventory reconciliation with the designated hospital staff ensuring the ending count matches the beginning count, less doses administered. This reconciliation will be documented.

**References:**

**History:**

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| 1/16 | Developed by Pharmacy, Office of Counsel to the Medical Center |
| 1/16 | Approved by the Medical Executive Committee                    |