



WAFP Policy Statements on Marijuana

Medicinal Marijuana

The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) acknowledges the growing trend throughout the country to legalize the medical utilization of marijuana to treat a variety of conditions from pain to glaucoma to Alzheimer's disease. While WAFP does not discredit the claims patients have made in the effectiveness of marijuana in treating their conditions, WAFP believes in the necessity and importance of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) drug approval process. The FDA drug approval process allows the federal government to conduct the proper research and clinical trials necessary to determine the medical value of drugs.

We do not seek to single out marijuana. To the contrary, we believe in utilizing the FDA drug approval process for any substance used to treat medical conditions.

As such, WAFP believes the FDA needs to conduct the necessary research and approve marijuana as an appropriate pharmaceutical substance before state legislatures make it legal to utilize marijuana for medical treatment. The science needs to precede and inform the policy. However, the FDA needs to be allowed to conduct the research.

Federal Declassification

The federal government current classifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug. Due to this classification, the federal Drug Enforcement Agency prohibits access to marijuana, which makes it difficult, if not impossible, to conduct clinical trial research on the medical use of marijuana.

WAFP supports federal efforts to declassify marijuana so that the FDA may conduct the proper clinical research. In doing so, policymakers and the medical community could have definitive data on the effectiveness and scope of marijuana as a medical treatment.

Decriminalization

WAFP also acknowledges that public understanding, attitudes, and acceptance of marijuana has changed over the decades. While WAFP does not support the recreational use of any federally prohibited drug, we recognize the reality of marijuana use in American society and support efforts to decriminalize personal possession and use of small amounts of the drug. We support efforts to treat marijuana use as a public health matter rather than a criminal one.

Approved by WAFP Executive Committee 6/12/2024