



ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Administrative Policies and Procedures

Policy No. 690.42 Issue 1
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SECTION: PATIENT CARE
SUBSECTION: OPERATIONAL
SUBJECT: CANNABIS FOR TERMINAL ILLNESS – MANAGEMENT OF
APPROVED BY: _____
ARMC Chief Executive Officer

POLICY

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) permits the self-administration of patient's own medical cannabis at the bedside inpatients with terminal illness pursuant to California Senate Bill on "Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis Act" a.k.a. "Ryan's Law". This policy does not permit ARMC to prohibit patient's own cannabis use due solely to the fact that cannabis is a Schedule I drug pursuant to the federal Controlled Substances Act.

PROCEDURES

- I. Patient Authorization
 - A. Upon admission, the patient's practitioner must document in the medical record that the patient has a terminal illness.
 1. Definition of Terminal Illness
 - a. A medical condition with a prognosis of life that is one year or less
 - b. Does not require a designation of "Do Not Resuscitate"
 - c. Does not require a designation of "Comfort Care"
 - B. Patient provides documentation of a medical cannabis use. Either one or both of the following may be used and must be copied to the patient's medical record:
 1. Valid, unexpired, California state issued Medical Marijuana Identification Card (MMIC)
 - a. CA Department of Public Health Link: https://mmic.cdph.ca.gov/MMIC_Search.aspx
(Manual entry: mmic.cdph.ca.gov/MMIC_Search.aspx)
 2. Written documentation that medical cannabis is recommended by a qualified, licensed practitioner
 - a. Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Practitioner License Verification Search Link: <https://search.dca.ca.gov/>

- C. Patient must sign the ARMC Medical Cannabis Patient Waiver regarding the self-administration (or the administration by the primary caregiver) of patient's own medical cannabis and hospital requirements.
- D. Upon admission, the patient's practitioner must document authorization for patient use of their own medical cannabis in the medical record.
 - 1. Documentation must specify authorization for use
 - 2. Documentation must specify self-administration of patient's own medical cannabis
- E. The patient (or primary caregiver) shall be solely responsible for acquiring, retrieving, administering, and removing medical cannabis.
- F. The patient's authorized medical cannabis shall be accessible and stored with the patient (or primary caregiver).
 - 1. A locked container must be provided by the patient or family members.
 - 2. The locked container is kept at patient's bedside or with the patient's primary caregiver.
 - 3. The patient or primary caregiver must remove all medical cannabis at time of discharge.

If medical cannabis is found after the patient has been discharged, security is contacted to assist in disposal of medical cannabis (i.e. the locked container) into a medical waste container within the medication room. Medication room access is provided by nursing at time of disposal.

- G. ARMC shall reasonably minimize interference with patient self-administration of medical cannabis.
 - 1. Healthcare staff (pharmacists, nurses and others) shall be prohibited from handling a patient's own medical cannabis.
 - 2. Patients shall be allowed access to their own medical cannabis.
 - 3. Nursing staff are not required to observe self-administration of patient's own medical cannabis.
 - 4. Nursing staff to periodically record the patient's or primary caregiver administration of medical cannabis in the medical record, based on the patient's or primary caregiver report.
- II. The patient's practitioner has authority to decide against, suspend, and/or restart a patient's own medical cannabis use if:
 - A. The patient's clinical outcome is in jeopardy, determined by the clinical judgment of the provider.
 - B. The patient displays signs and symptoms of adverse drug reactions.
 - 1. If there is suspicion of an adverse event caused by medical cannabis, this shall be documented in the patient's medical record.
 - C. The decision to suspend or restart medical cannabis must be documented in the medical record.
- III. Smoking or vaping of the medical cannabis is prohibited
- IV. This policy does not apply to a patient receiving emergency or psychiatric services.
- V. This policy does not require ARMC to provide a patient with a recommendation to use medical cannabis or to include medical cannabis in a patient's discharge note.

VI. ARMC may suspend compliance with this policy if:

- A. A federal agency initiates enforcement action related to the noncompliance of with the Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis Act.
- B. If a federal regulatory agency, the US DOJ, or CMS initiates a new rule into the Federal Register prohibiting compliance with the Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis Act.

- REFERENCES:**
1. **Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis Act or Ryan’s Law (2021-2022).** Link: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB302
 2. **Policy ADM 690.02 Patient Personal Property - Management of**
 3. **Cannabis Waste Question and Answers Link:** <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Docs/Web/121932>

DEFINITIONS:

CMS: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

DOJ: United States Department of Justice

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A: ARMC Medical Cannabis Patient Waiver

APPROVAL DATE:	12/02/24	Theo Moy, Director of Pharmacy <small>Department/Service Director, Manager or Supervisor</small>
	01/16/25	Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee <small>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee</small>
	06/17/25	Nursing Standards Committee <small>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee</small>
	06/25/25	Patient Safety and Quality Committee <small>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee</small>
	07/03/25	Quality Management Committee <small>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee</small>
	07/24/25	Medical Executive Committee <small>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee</small>
	12/16/25	Board of Supervisors <small>Approved by the Governing Body</small>

REPLACES: N/A

EFFECTIVE: 07/24/25

REVISED: N/A

REVIEWED: N/A

ATTACHMENT A ARMC MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENT WAIVER

Background: Beginning January 1, 2022, CA SB 311, also known as “Ryan’s Law” became effective. The bill requires health care facilities to allow the use of medical cannabis on their premises for terminally ill patients with a Medical Marijuana Identification Card (MMIC) or/ recommendation from their practitioner. Ryan’s Law builds on the rights granted to patients through the voter initiative Proposition 215 in 1996, also known as the Compassionate Use Act, which exempts patients and their designated caregivers from criminal penalties relating to the use, possession, and cultivation of cannabis with an oral or written recommendation or approval from a physician. In addition, a later bill, CA SB 988 amended Ryan’s Law with some additional language

Instructions: Please read and sign the following policies and procedures adopted to adhere to the requirements of SB 311 and SB 988 (Ryan’s Law).

1. Do NOT smoke or vape medical cannabis. Smoking and vaping are prohibited.
2. Patient or caregiver must provide a valid Medical Marijuana Identification Card (MMIC) or a licensed practitioner’s recommendation to use medical marijuana.
 - a. Attach a copy of the MMIC or the licensed practitioner’s recommendation to use medical marijuana to this waiver.
3. Patient or caregiver must supply a locked container for medical cannabis. The container must remain locked when medical cannabis is not in use.
4. Patient or caregiver is responsible for acquiring, retrieving, and administering the medical cannabis.
5. Patient or caregiver is responsible for removing any unused cannabis from the hospital at time of discharge. Any cannabis left in the room post-discharge will be immediately destroyed.
6. Health care staff, including, but not limited to, practitioners, nurses, and pharmacists, are prohibited from administering or retrieving the medical cannabis from storage.
7. The use of medical cannabis will be documented within the patient’s medical record. I understand these policies and will adhere to them. Failure to follow these policies may revoke the right to continue the use of medical cannabis. I also hereby waive any liability for lost or stolen medical cannabis brought on hospital premises.

Signature Patient / Caregiver: _____

Date: _____