

# University of Washington Research Study: Medicinal Cannabis and Chronic Pain: Science-Based Education in Times of Legalization

Needs Assessment Survey

Beatriz Carlini, Ph.D., M.P.H., Research Scientist, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute, Phone: 206-616-5880

Sharon Garrett, M.P.H., M.A., Project Coordinator, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute, Phone: 206-685-6692

The State of Washington Attorney General's office has granted us the opportunity to deliver a comprehensive CME program for health care providers regarding the scientific basis, clinical applications, and legal ramifications for using medicinal cannabis to treat chronic pain. This training program will provide balanced information from multiple perspectives in several formats to help you understand how cannabis works in the brain, diseases and conditions for which it may or may not be indicated, and how to make sense of the current legal environment surrounding its use. The overarching goal is to help you be an informed health care provider so you can make balanced evidence based decisions about recommending medicinal cannabis.

To make the CME offering effective, we are inviting health care professionals to complete a one-time 10 minute anonymous survey. Results from this survey will inform the upcoming training, and provide valuable information about clinicians' experiences related to the use of medicinal cannabis to treat chronic pain. While there are no direct benefits to you personally for participating, your valuable feedback will help to develop training courses that addresses clinicians' interests and concerns. Survey questions pertain only to your role as a health care provider and ask you about:

Your level of knowledge about medicinal cannabis

Your comfort level and experience in recommending or supporting patients using medicinal cannabis

Your concerns about its use in treating conditions involving chronic pain

Your opinions and attitudes toward the medicinal use of cannabis

Basic demographics about you and your practice that will NOT reveal any personally identifiable information

There is a risk of breach of confidentiality if someone were to see you completing this survey; however we have no way of knowing your identity. We encourage you to complete the survey in a private space. Participation is voluntary, and you may choose not to participate without consequence. You may skip any question that you do not wish to answer, and you may stop at any time. If you have questions about this survey or the associated grant, you may contact Dr. Beatriz Carlini at [bia@uw.edu](mailto:bia@uw.edu) or 206-616-5880. For questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the UW Human Subjects Division at 206-543-0098. If you would like to preview the questions, without responding, please go to this link: <http://adai.uw.edu/mcacp/>

By pressing the "next page" button below, you are agreeing to participate in this survey.

**PLEASE READ**

**In the state of Washington, the "Medical Use of Cannabis Act" permits certain licensed health care professionals (M.D., Medical P.A, D.O., Osteopathic P.A., N.D., and A.R.N.P.) to advise qualifying patients about the risks and benefits of the medicinal use of cannabis and to provide a qualifying patient with written documentation that the medicinal use of cannabis might be beneficial. This is sometimes referred to as providing written authorization. Health care providers may not prescribe cannabis for medicinal use.**

**There are two exceptions, both of which are FDA-approved cannabinoid medicines: dronabinol (Marinol) and nabilone (Cesamet).**

**In this survey, the term "medicinal cannabis" refers to cannabis products that are not approved by the FDA.**

The following questions relate to your current and desired knowledge of medicinal cannabis and cannabis-based medications.

1. From which sources have you obtained information about medicinal cannabis?

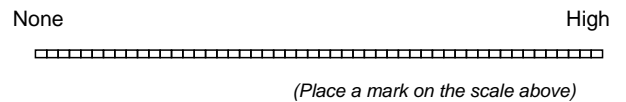
- Medical journals
  - News media
  - Friends/family
  - Dispensary owners
  - Other healthcare providers
  - Patients
  - Practice administrators
  - CME education
  - Lectures
  - Legal counsel
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - I have never obtained information about medical cannabis
- (Check all that apply.)

1a. Other Source: \_\_\_\_\_

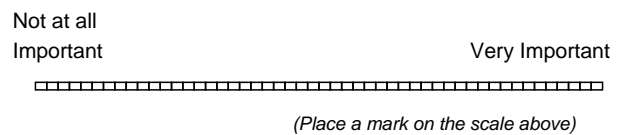
2. Have you ever received training about the use of medicinal cannabis in clinical practice?

- Yes
- No

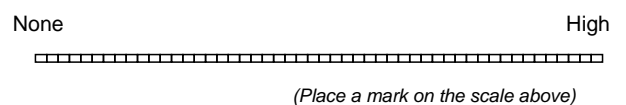
3. Please rate your current understanding of the endocannabinoid system.



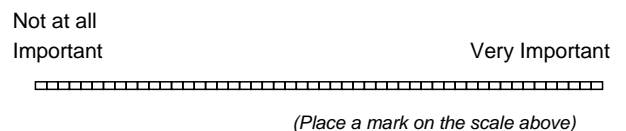
4. How important it is for you to have a better understanding of how medicinal cannabis works?



5. Please rate your understanding of existing FDA-approved cannabinoid-based medications.



6. How important is it for you to have an understanding of existing cannabinoid-based medications?



7. Which cannabinoid-based medications have you ever prescribed?

- Marinol (dronabinol)
  - Cesamet (nabilone)
  - None
- (Check all that apply)

8. What format/structure do you prefer for your own learning?

- Workshops
  - Professional Conference
  - Grand Rounds/Symposia
  - Literature Reviews
  - Newsletters
  - Online Videos of Lectures (e.g. Ted Talks)
  - Online Interactive Trainings
  - Scheduled Webinars
  - Websites with current information
  - Other
- (Check all that apply)

8a. Other:

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**Please indicate the extent to which you would be interested in a CME training with the following content:**

	Not at all Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested
9. Published findings concerning safety/efficacy of medicinal cannabis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Case reports and anecdotal evidence of safety/efficacy of medicinal cannabis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Provisions and limits of Washington's medicinal cannabis law.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. How Washington's medicinal cannabis system actually works.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. How I-502 (the legalization of non-medical marijuana sales to adults in Washington) will affect medicinal cannabis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Inconsistencies in state and federal law concerning medicinal cannabis and how they're being addressed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Specific procedures required of health professionals who authorize patients to use medicinal cannabis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Professional liability and ethics with reference to medicinal cannabis authorization.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16a. How to talk with your patients and answer questions about medicinal cannabis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**The next questions pertain to policy and opinions about the use of medicinal cannabis.**

17. Does your practice have a policy about authorizing patients to use medicinal cannabis?

- Yes  
 No  
 Unsure

(If you practice in more than one place, choose the one where you see the majority of your patients)

17a. If yes, which of the following describes that policy?

- My practice policy prohibits me from authorizing patients to use medicinal cannabis.  
 My practice policy permits me to authorize a patient to use medicinal cannabis, only if they ask.  
 My practice permits me to authorize patients to use medicinal cannabis whether or not they have considered it as an option.  
 I am unsure of what my practice policy is.  
 Other

17b. Other Policy

18. In your opinion, what are the main limitations of medicinal cannabis therapies?

- Interactions with medications  
 Legal issues  
 Limited evidence of effectiveness  
 Limited clinician knowledge of available products and where to get them  
 Mechanism of action  
 Narrow therapeutic window  
 Need for monitoring  
 Risk of abuse/dependence  
 Side effects  
 Stigma associated with recreational use of marijuana  
 Route of delivery  
 Uncertain dosing  
 Other  
 (Check all that apply)

18a. Other:

19. What is your comfort level with suggesting or writing an authorization for patients to use medicinal cannabis?

- Not comfortable at all  
 Not very comfortable  
 Comfortable  
 Very comfortable

20. What factors would increase your comfort level with authorizing medicinal cannabis?

- More clinical data  
 More research providing evidence of effectiveness.  
 Education programs for health care providers  
 Algorithms for recommending medical marijuana  
 More long-term safety data  
 More long-term evaluations of addictive properties  
 New indications  
 Patient education information  
 Peer discussions  
 Endorsed dosing guidelines  
 Alternate routes of delivery  
 Change in legal status (federal level)  
 Other  
 (Check all that apply)

20a. Other

**The following statements pertain to medicinal cannabis. Please rate each statement according to your level of agreement.**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
21. Clinicians should be able to prescribe cannabis as a medical therapy without fear of legal action.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Cannabis can be addictive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Using medicinal cannabis can result in serious physical health risks, even when used as recommended.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Using medicinal cannabis can result in serious mental health risks, even when used as recommended.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. There are significant physical health benefits to using medicinal cannabis when used as recommended by a healthcare professional.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. There are significant mental health benefits to using medicinal cannabis when used as recommended by a healthcare professional.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. Medicinal cannabis helps people who suffer from chronic debilitating medical conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. The FDA should reclassify cannabis so that it is no longer a Schedule I drug. (Schedule I drugs are defined as having no accepted medical use, a lack of accepted safety, and potential for abuse).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. Medicinal cannabis should be included in the Washington Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), which tracks prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Clinicians should have ongoing relationships with patients for whom they recommend medicinal cannabis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. Training about medicinal cannabis should be incorporated into undergraduate health care education curricula.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32.					

- |     |   |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|-----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|     | Training about medicinal cannabis should be incorporated into post-graduate healthcare training.      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 33. | CME about medicinal cannabis should be available to clinicians.                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 34. | Clinicians should have formal training about medicinal cannabis prior to recommending it to patients. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35. | I always assess my patients for marijuana use (either recreational or medicinal).                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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**We'd like to know more about your current practice and experience as it relates to medicinal cannabis.**

36. What proportion of your patients has ever asked you about medicinal cannabis as a treatment option?
- None  
 Very Few  
 About a quarter  
 About half  
 More than half
37. In your experience, for which conditions do patients seek medicinal cannabis as a treatment?
- Cancer  
 HIV/AIDS  
 Multiple sclerosis (MS)  
 Epilepsy or other seizure disorder  
 Spasticity disorder  
 Intractable pain  
 Glaucoma  
 Crohn's Disease  
 Hepatitis C with debilitating nausea or intractable pain  
 Anorexia  
 Cerebral Palsy  
 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)  
 Fibromyalgia  
 Osteoarthritis  
 Insomnia  
 Depression  
 Anxiety  
 Other  
 None  
(Check all that apply)
- 37a. Other Condition \_\_\_\_\_
38. Have you ever suggested to a patient that he/she could benefit from medicinal cannabis (verbal suggestion only, without a written authorization)?
- Yes  
 No
39. Have you ever written a medicinal cannabis authorization for a patient?
- Yes  
 No



40. For which conditions have you verbally suggested or written an authorization for the use of medicinal cannabis?

- Cancer
- HIV/AIDS
- Multiple sclerosis (MS)
- Epilepsy or other seizure disorder
- Spasticity disorder
- Intractable pain
- Glaucoma
- Crohn's Disease
- Hepatitis C with debilitating nausea or intractable pain
- Anorexia
- Cerebral Palsy
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Fibromyalgia
- Osteoarthritis
- Insomnia
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

(Note: This question includes both state-approved conditions as outlined specifically in WA State law RCW 69.51A.010, and underlying conditions that are not specifically named in the law, but which may result in intractable pain, nausea, or other symptoms for which the use of medicinal cannabis may be beneficial. Please check all that apply.)

40a. Other

\_\_\_\_\_

41. Which cannabinoid-based medications have you ever prescribed?

- Marinol (dronabinol)
  - Cesamet (nabilone)
  - None
- (Check all that apply.)

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## Demographics

42. How old are you?

- 20-29  
 30-39  
 40-49  
 50-59  
 60-69  
 70-79  
 80+

43. What is your gender?

- Male  
 Female  
 Other

What type of healthcare professional are you?

- Medical Doctor (MD)  
 Osteopathic Physician (DO)  
 Nurse Practitioner (NP, ARNP)  
 Physician Assistant (PA, OA)  
 Naturopathic Physician (ND)  
 Nurse (RN, LN)  
 Pharmacist  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am not a health care professional

44a. Other

What is your primary specialty?

- 
- Allergy & Immunology  
 Anesthesiology  
 Colon & Rectal Surgery  
 Dermatology  
 Emergency Medicine  
 Family Medicine  
 Internal Medicine  
 Clinical Genetics  
 Neurological Surgery  
 Nuclear Medicine  
 Obstetrics & Gynecology  
 Ophthalmology  
 Orthopedic Surgery  
 Otolaryngology  
 Pathology  
 Pediatrics  
 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
 Plastic Surgery  
 Preventive Medicine  
 Psychiatry & Neurology  
 Radiology  
 Surgery  
 Thoracic Surgery  
 Urology  
 None

What is your primary subspecialty?

- Addiction Psychiatry
- Adolescent Medicine
- Adult Congenital Heart Disease
- Advanced Heart Failure & Transplant Cardiology
- Anesthesiology Critical Medicine
- Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine
- Brain Injury Medicine
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Child Abuse Pediatrics
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology
- Clinical Informatics
- Clinical Neurophysiology
- Complex General Surgical Oncology
- Congenital Cardiac Surgery
- Critical Care Medicine
- Cytopathology Dermatopathology
- Developmental behavioral pediatrics
- Emergency Medical Services
- Endocrinology
- Diabetes and Metabolism Epilepsy
- Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery
- Gastroenterology Geriatric Medicine
- Geriatric Psychiatry
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Hematology
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine
- Infectious Disease
- Internal Medicine-Critical Care Medicine
- Interventional Cardiology
- Maternal and Fetal Medicine
- Medical Biochemical Genetics
- Medical Oncology
- Medical Toxicology
- Molecular Genetic Pathology
- Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
- Nephrology
- Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
- Neurodevelopmental pathologies
- Neuromuscular Medicine
- Neuropathology
- Neuroradiology
- Neurotology
- Nuclear Radiology
- Orthopaedic Sports Medicine
- Pain Medicine
- Pathology - Chemical
- Pathology - Forensic
- Pathology - Hematology
- Pathology - Medical Microbiology
- Pathology - Molecular Genetic
- Pathology - Pediatric Pediatric Anesthesiology
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine
- Pediatric Endocrinology
- Pediatric Gastroenterology
- Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
- Pediatric Infectious Diseases
- Pediatric Nephrology
- Pediatric Otolaryngology
- Pediatric Radiology
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
- Pediatric Rheumatology
- Pediatric Surgery
- Pediatric Transplant Hepatology
- Pediatric Urology
- Plastic Surgery Within the Head and Neck
- Psychosomatic Medicine

- Pulmonary Disease
- Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility
- Rheumatology
- Sleep Medicine
- Spinal Cord Injury Medicine
- Sports Medicine
- Surgery of the Hand
- Surgical Critical Care
- Transplant Hepatology
- Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine
- Vascular Neurology
- Other

45a. Other:

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46. How many years have you been in practice (post-residency, if applicable)?

- 0-4
- 5-9
- 10-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40+

47. Please indicate the county(ies) in which you practice.

- Adams County
  - Asotin County
  - Benton County
  - Chelan County
  - Clallam County
  - Clark County
  - Columbia County
  - Cowlitz County
  - Douglas County
  - Ferry County
  - Franklin County
  - Garfield County
  - Grant County
  - Grays Harbor County
  - Island County
  - Jefferson County
  - King County
  - Kitsap County
  - Kittitas County
  - Klickitat County
  - Lewis County
  - Lincoln County
  - Mason County
  - Okanogan County
  - Pacific County
  - Pend Oreille County
  - Pierce County
  - San Juan County
  - Skagit County
  - Skamania County
  - Snohomish County
  - Spokane County
  - Stevens County
  - Thurston County
  - Wahkiakum County
  - Walla Walla County
  - Whatcom County
  - Whitman County
  - Yakima County
- (Check all that apply.)