

## Report of BOD Subcommittee on Marijuana Policy Update (**Action**)

### **Why the board is having this discussion**

The CMS Board of Directors considered a Central Line proposal to update policy on marijuana during its meeting on January 19, 2018. At the meeting the board recognized the need to update CMS policy but wanted to ensure that recommendations for new policy are legally and clinically sound. A board subcommittee was created to review the proposal and develop consensus policy recommendations. The following report details those recommendations and the process used to create them.

### **BOD subcommittee recommendation: (Action)**

In lieu of the Central Line proposal on Marijuana Policy Update, the board subcommittee recommends the following be adopted as new CMS policy:

- CMS recognizes the reported health benefits and adverse health effects of marijuana (cannabis) and supports the education of its members regarding these issues.
- CMS opposes people self-diagnosing and treating themselves or family members, particularly children, with medical marijuana.
- CMS recommends that patients being treated for a particular medical condition with cannabis be under the care of a physician and if necessary, in consultation with a physician with specialty training in the condition for which the patient seeks care.
- CMS supports increased efforts and funding directed at education, prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, particularly cannabis use disorder.
- CMS supports increased state and federal funding for cannabis research, easing regulatory restrictions impeding approval for cannabis and cannabinoid research, and encouraging ongoing collection of individual and population data on patients receiving medical cannabis.
- CMS supports rescheduling cannabis so that it no longer is a Schedule I drug.
- CMS supports the development of clinical prescribing and dosing guidelines for medical marijuana.
- CMS supports the identification, monitoring and publicizing results of health care costs associated with cannabis use.
- CMS endorses enforcement of current state law, regulations and guidelines regarding medical marijuana recommendations, which include having a bona fide patient-physician relationship and maintaining medical records that are readily accessible.

**How the proposed policy was created:** A subcommittee of the board was created, and a membership-wide, confidential application process was utilized to recruit participants in order to ensure that a representative group of physicians, with varied perspectives, expertise and experience, participated. Recruitment activities included soliciting participation from general membership, along with targeted outreach to certain specialty societies and those CMS members that participate in the public health interest area within Central Line. Authors of the original Central Line proposal participated on

the subcommittee. In addition, CMS reached out to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to benefit from their expertise

The subcommittee reviewed AMA policy reports, literature submitted by the Central Line proposal's authors, and other resources from the National Academies of Science and CDPHE. The subcommittee met on April 23, 2018.

**BOD subcommittee members included:**

Robert Yakely, MD, Subcommittee Chair

Lisha Barre, MD

Kenneth Finn, MD

Mark Johnson, MD

Jeremy Lazarus, MD

Brad Roberts, MD

Steve Thorson, MD

Ken Gershman, MD, CDPHE Manager of the Marijuana Research Grants Program