

PAIN MANAGEMENT AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Medical marijuana is not FDA regulated and is still illegal under federal law. It is a schedule 1 controlled substance, a schedule reserved for substances found to have no medicinal value but plenty of addiction and abuse potential.

Over the last few years several US states have passed laws that legalize the sale and use of medical marijuana for certain medical problems in that state. This is something the medical community is watching closely and physicians vary widely in how to proceed with these changes. Some physicians are strong proponents of medical marijuana. Many physicians are certified to prescribe medical marijuana. Many physicians still feel that the possible benefits of medical marijuana aren't worth the potential serious risks and strongly urge their patients to stay away from it.

Currently we do not prescribe or encourage our patients to try medical marijuana for their chronic pain condition or any other condition.

Facts about medical marijuana:

- it is illegal under federal law
- it is not FDA regulated so there is no way of knowing what substances are in the marijuana you're using and the ingredients can vary widely from one source to the next making it difficult to get consistent pain control
- Doctors have no way of predicting how you will respond to it or how your other medications will interact with it (again, not FDA regulated, what's really in it!?)
- there isn't a consistent way to dose marijuana

For these reasons **we consider urine drug screens abnormal if THC shows up on the results and will consider this non-compliant behavior.** Non-compliant behavior may result in our **discontinuation of any controlled medications we are prescribing** you (opioid, benzodiazepines, sleeping pills, etc.).