January 8, 2015

To: Mainpro Program Providers  
Cc: Ian Goldstine, Amy Outschoorn, Janice Harvey, Jessica Black  
Subject: CPD Program proposals on the topic of dried cannabis

Dear Colleagues

As you will recall in July 2014 in response to the passage of federal legislation and out of concern for the identified lack of evidence supporting the therapeutic use of dried cannabis the College’s National Committee on Continuing Professional Development (NCCPD) suspended the consideration of accreditation approvals for CPD programming on the subject of medical marijuana.

With the release of the CFPC’s Preliminary Guidance Document on Authorizing Dried Cannabis for Chronic Pain and Anxiety and the formation of a medical marijuana review group we have formalized the process to review programs on medical marijuana for MAINPRO® accreditation. The medical marijuana review group is made up of three family physicians with experience in this subject. They have been drawn from our Addictions Medicine, Chronic Pain, and Mental Health Committees. One member of the group is an experienced Mainpro reviewer. The group will utilize a review tool based on three of the six Mainpro+ Quality Criteria and the Preliminary Guidance Document to enhance the review process. The three Quality Criteria as outlined below focus on program design components our review group feel are most important when providing CPD programming on medical marijuana. It is important to note that these criteria will be applied to all Certified programs when Mainpro+ is introduced in July, 2015.

Those providers wishing to submit programs for consideration on the subject of medical marijuana should ensure programs meet the following additional criteria for Mainpro M1 or Mainpro-C consideration:

1. Close adherence to the guidelines outlined in the Preliminary Guidance Document on Authorizing Dried Cannabis for Chronic Pain and Anxiety

2. Needs Assessment and Practice Relevance
   - Indirect assessment of target audience’s needs are used to guide program development and to obtain information on prior knowledge and practice experience of practitioners
   - Learning objectives are tied to needs assessment results
   - Needs assessment addresses physician competency through CanMEDs-FM

3. Incorporation of Evidence
   - An outline of the evidence used to create the content must be provided
   - Must include references within materials
   - Lack of evidence for assertions or recommendations must be acknowledged
   - If a single study is the focus or select studies are omitted, program developers must provide the rationale to support this decision
   - Graphs and charts cannot be altered to highlight one treatment or product.
4. Addressing Barriers to Change
   • Educational design includes discussion of commonly encountered barriers to practice change

We will begin this process January 9th, 2015. Providers should be aware that this additional review process may take longer than usual and should plan accordingly.

Should you have questions regarding the review process or program requirements please contact Jessica Black, Accreditation Manager at jblack@cfpc.ca or 905-629-0900 ext. 396.

We appreciate your assistance with this unique process and hope that together we can ensure our members are provided with the relevant and evidence-based programs they are seeking.

Many thanks to all.

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