



WAFP Policy Statements on Marijuana

Medicinal Marijuana

The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) acknowledges the growing trend throughout the country to legalize the medical utilization of marijuana. While WAFP does not discredit the claims patients have made in the effectiveness of marijuana in treating their conditions, WAFP believes in the necessity and importance of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) drug approval process. The FDA drug approval process allows the federal government to evaluate and conduct the proper research and clinical trials necessary to determine the medical value and safety of drugs.

We do not seek to single out marijuana. To the contrary, we believe in utilizing the FDA drug approval process for any substance used to treat medical conditions.

As such, WAFP believes the FDA needs to promote and conduct the necessary research on marijuana as an appropriate pharmaceutical substance before state legislatures make it legal to utilize marijuana for medical treatment. The science needs to precede and inform the policy. However, federal restrictions currently limit access to marijuana for research purposes.

Reclassification

The federal government current classifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug. Due to this classification, the federal Drug Enforcement Agency limits access to marijuana, which makes it difficult, if not impossible, to conduct clinical trial research on the medical use of marijuana.

WAFP supports federal efforts to reclassify marijuana so that the researchers may conduct the proper basic science and clinical research. In doing so, policymakers and the medical community could have definitive data on the effectiveness, risks and scope of marijuana as a medical treatment.

Our Approach

We support efforts to treat marijuana use as a public health matter rather than a criminal one.

