

Limitations on the Use of Medical Cannabis in a Recovery Residence Setting

The Colorado Agency for Recovery Residences (CARR) recognizes that an absolute ban on medical cannabis in a recovery residence setting could prevent the appropriate use of cannabis for various healthcare conditions. Accordingly, the CARR Board adopts the following principles for CARR-certified recovery residences.

1. Recovery Residences may, but are not required to, permit the use of medical cannabis by residents as part of its program.
2. Recovery Residences that choose to allow medical cannabis must not be receiving any form of federal funding.
3. All Recovery Residence residents using medical cannabis must not be receiving any form of federal funding.
4. All Recovery Residence residents using medical cannabis must be registered with the Colorado Medical Marijuana Registry and possess a current medical marijuana/cannabis card certified by a qualified healthcare provider and issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
5. Only edible, pill, transdermal patch, and tincture formulations of cannabis are permitted for use within a CARR Certified Recovery Residence. Combustible cannabis products are not permitted.
6. Medical cannabis products must be kept under secure (lockbox) storage conditions. There also needs to be appropriate monitoring of the products based on the level of support within the home. The home needs to have established procedures to ensure that the products are only used by the person with the legal and medical recommendation and in the amounts recommended. These processes may include:
 - a. Product inventory;
 - b. Observed self-dispensing; and
 - c. Random product counts.

Evidence of a Recovery Residence resident's use of medical cannabis for purposes other than as recommended by a healthcare provider, diversion of medical cannabis, use of medical cannabis in excess of the dosage recommended by resident's healthcare provider, or behavior that suggests misuse of medical cannabis may constitute grounds for dismissal from the Recovery Residence. The policies and practices listed above are effective ways that the Recovery Residence can demonstrate that such products are being used appropriately.

7. The use of prescribed medication, including medically recommended cannabis, must not interfere with established and agreed-upon recovery activities. If cannabis use interferes with recovery progress, it needs to be addressed with the resident and the healthcare provider that made the recommendation. Subsequently, a referral to a more appropriate situation may be warranted.

8. Residents using medical cannabis must sign appropriate Consent to Release(s) of Confidential Information (42 CFR Part 2) authorizing communications between the Recovery Residence operator and the healthcare provider making the recommendation.
9. The recovery residence policy and associated resident materials on medications must include a statement specific to medical cannabis.
10. All prospective residents must be informed of the medical cannabis policy before admission to the Recovery Residence.

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