The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program: An Update for Counselors

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Objectives

• Present an overview of the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program. Detail who is eligible to receive medical marijuana and how this program functions.
• Review current research from clinical trials.
• Share insights and strategies for counselors who are working with clients that are using, or who are interested in using this drug.
• Discuss implications and considerations for counselors.

Some background....

September 8, 2016
Effective date of Ohio House Bill 523. HB 523 establishes the basic framework for Ohio’s Medical Marijuana Control Program.

September 8, 2018
Ohio law requires the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program to be fully operational by this date.
As of November, 2018

• Missouri will tax medical marijuana sales at 4% and the proceeds will fund veterans health care programs
• 10 states have legalized recreational marijuana use—Michigan is the first state in the Midwest

But....

But possessing, selling or using marijuana remains illegal under federal law!!

• Since the 1930s, federal law has declared the use, sale or distribution of marijuana illegal.
• Under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance.
Some examples of the drugs that are on each schedule:

Schedule 1:
Schedule 2:
Schedule 3:
Schedule 4:
Schedule 5:

The good news is...

• There is currently a ceasefire in the federal war on medical marijuana.
• Since 2014, Congress has approved a budget amendment that prohibits the Department of Justice to use funds to prevent state from implementing their medical marijuana laws.
• Rohrabacher-Farr or CJS amendment

Bummer, man.

You can run into problems with the CSA even if you are not directly involved with the marijuana industry. If you provide services to a business that operates under state marijuana laws, you may also be violating federal law, and subject to prosecution. So if you run a janitorial services and have a client that operates a dispensary, you may be profiting from illegal drug trafficking. Other areas where conflicts are happening every day:
Question:

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFYING MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE TREATED WITH MEDICAL MARIJUANA?

Certified physicians may recommend medical marijuana only for the treatment of a qualifying medical condition. Under Ohio law, all of the following are qualifying medical conditions:

DUDE, I QUALIFY! CAN MY DOCTOR PRESCRIBE MEDICAL MARIJUANA OR GIVE ME A CARD?
Physicians need to obtain a CERTIFICATE TO RECOMMEND (CTR) MEDICAL MARIJUANA

3 part question:
Do people need to register? How long is registration valid? Is this public information?
Question: WILL MEDICAL MARIJUANA BE AVAILABLE TO MINORS?

Question: How much medical marijuana will a registered patient or caregiver be able to possess at one time?

Question: WHAT FORMS OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA ARE AVAILABLE?
Question:
GREAT, WHERE CAN I GO TO GET THIS?

Still curious? Here is a glimpse of how this might work...

Question:
CAN NEW FORMS BE APPROVED
Question:

IS CBD OIL LEGAL IN OHIO?

Implications for counselors....

• Whether you like it or not
• Consider your opinion
• Give clients options
• Know your community
• Current trends and research

Current research...

Epidiolex® (cannabidiol)

Other costs to consider...

- Doctor exam/visit/diagnosis
- "First time patient"?
- License and renewal fees
- Products

Do you have questions about The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program?

Hotline: A help line, 833-464-6627, went live June 4 to answer questions about medical marijuana and the state’s program. The call center, based in Bellfontaine, operates 7 a.m. to 9 p.m Monday through Saturday and has been averaging 25 calls per day.
Want to learn more?

FDA approves first drug comprised of an active ingredient derived from marijuana to treat rare, severe forms of epilepsy
https://www.fda.gov/newsevents/newsroom/pressannouncements/ucm611046.htm

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425757/

The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program
https://www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov

Thank you for joining me!

Please feel free to email me at megmahon1@gmail.com with questions and/or comments.