

TALKING POINTS

- Physicians are in a difficult legal position. California has decriminalized cannabis, but it remains illegal on the federal level. In order for physicians to safely recommend medical cannabis, it must be legalized and regulated.
- Cannabis is currently not sufficiently regulated- there is need for oversight and quality control to protect personal and public health
- Rescheduling cannabis will allow for further clinical research to determine the utility and risks of cannabis, which will then shape the national regulatory structure for this substance
- The CMA Council on Scientific and Clinical Affairs (CSA) has developed a set of medical cannabis recommendation guidelines for physicians indicating the limited conditions for which the medical use of cannabis may be effective.
- Dosage is not currently well-standardized. CMA is advocating for the legalization of cannabis so that it may be appropriately regulated for proper dosage, purity and efficacy.
- Components of medical cannabis may be effective for the treatment of pain, nausea, anorexia, and other conditions
- Current literature documents several personal health risks, both short and long-term, associated with cannabis use. It is important that medical cannabis be rescheduled to study and further determine those risks.
- Current literature is insufficient and scientific evidence is lacking around the benefits and risks.
- In 2009, the AMA House of Delegates put forward a clear-cut message that cannabis's Schedule I status was no longer appropriate and interfered with legitimate medical research. CMA also has policy that marijuana should be rescheduled. This white paper re-emphasizes that while also calling for legalization
- Policy Recommendation includes:
 - Continue to allow physicians to recommend medical cannabis to patients pursuant to the CSA guidelines, until a proper regulatory framework is established
 - “Reschedule “medical cannabis in order to encourage research leading to responsible regulation.
 - Build an appropriate regulatory framework for recreational cannabis, much like alcohol and tobacco..