

Medical cannabis review process

As more states legalize the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes and requests for it increase in workplace injury claims, having an established system in place is crucial for employers. Our clinical review process helps clients respond to these evolving changes by offering valuable guidance related to safety and legal concerns.

Sedgwick is the first third party claims administrator to develop a medical cannabis review process. A cross-functional team including claims, clinical and compliance leaders collaborated and researched the latest developments in medical cannabis to create this careful review process for clients.

Our clinical approach is based on valid evidence, the totality of the claim and the legal issues involved. It is designed to ensure caution when providers prescribe medical marijuana for injured employees looking for an alternative to conventional therapies.

How it works

When we receive a request for treatment with medical cannabis, the claims examiner submits it to our pharmacy utilization review team. Specially trained nurses complete a utilization review and provide a recommendation to the examiner and the client as required. The nurse completes the review based on the clinical evidence and fact pattern of the individual case and advises the examiner on the appropriate state law.

Currently, neither the Official Disability Guidelines nor any other clinical or evidence-based guidelines recommend cannabis for pain or other indications. In states where cannabis is allowed, and case law and/or regulations may require reimbursement, the detailed review from our clinical team can offer guidance.

Helping you keep your employees safe

Although cannabis has a long history of use, support for using it to treat medical conditions is lacking the clinical vigor that generally goes along with a drug. As more clinical evidence or products are brought to market and as the legal landscape evolves, we will continue to ensure our approach and review process are thorough and based on what is best for our clients and their employees.

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To learn more about our medical cannabis review process, contact:

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To learn more about our integrated and customized solutions, visit [SEDGWICK.COM](https://www.sedgwick.com)