

Rx - Marijuana

Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug in the United States and its use will increase as its recreational use has become legal in some states. The main hallucinogenic agent is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which binds to certain neuroreceptors in the brain. Only a small portion of the consumed THC reaches the brain, where its effects are maximal in 15 – 30 minutes. After 2 – 4 hours, the THC level in the brain falls below that necessary for psychoactivity. In modest doses, the temporary effects are similar to alcohol, as is the underwriting risk. The main physiological risk from marijuana smoking is damage to the lungs. There may be an increased mortality risk due to the risk of accidents and the risk is higher if marijuana is mixed with other psychoactive or sedative drugs.

It can be consumed in many different ways, including smoking or the inhalation of heated vapors without the actual burning of the marijuana; it may also be taken in a pill form, included as an ingredient in some foods, or brewed into a beverage. All of which are treated as marijuana use.

MEDICINAL USE:

Prescribed by a physician in some states, it is considered “compassionate use” for the relief of pain, nausea, or anorexia due to cancer or AIDS. It may also be prescribed for persistent muscle spasms associated with MS, severe nausea, seizures, glaucoma, or chronic pain (i.e., arthritis, migraine headaches). When prescribed by a physician, any rating assessed will be based on the underlying condition, not the actual use of the prescribed medicinal marijuana.

RECREATIONAL USE:

Underwriting depends on past and current use of marijuana, frequency of use, applicant’s age, and a urine test result.

For recreational users, ages 20 and under:	Decline
For recreational users, ages 21 and over with admission:	
▶ Up to 3 uses* per week	No rating
▶ 4 – 6 uses* per week	Table B
▶ 7 or more uses* per week	Decline
For recreational users, ages 21 and over without admission:	
▶ Positive THC in urine	Decline

*Marijuana use does not require Smoker rates; usual Tobacco guidelines apply.

The current or past use of other drugs, including prescription medicines and illegal substances, will be taken into consideration. Refer to the Drug Abuse Rx as necessary.

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY. NOT FOR USE WITH THE PUBLIC.

Ask “Rx”pert Underwriter (Ask Our Expert)

After reading the Rx for Success on Marijuana, use this form to Ask “Rx”pert Underwriter for an informal quote.

Producer _____ Phone _____ Fax _____
Client _____ Age/DOB _____ Sex _____

If your client uses marijuana recreationally, please answer the following:

1. How frequently does your client use marijuana? Please describe.
(Details should include the number of uses on a weekly basis and the last time used.)

2. Please describe your client’s past and current use of illicit drugs and alcohol.

3. Is there any history of drug or alcohol treatment?

4. Does your client use tobacco products? Please describe.

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