Counseling Clients About the Use of Marijuana (Including CBD Oil) for the Alleviation of Symptoms Related to Illness or Injury

Oregon statutes and rules regarding the use of marijuana state that only a physician may discuss the use of marijuana for the alleviation of symptoms for specific diseases. It would be a violation of state regulation for any licensee of the Oregon State Board of Nursing to discuss or recommend the use of marijuana for the alleviation of disease symptoms or symptoms due to injury to any patient or client. This also included cannabis-derived CBD oil. This does not apply to products derived from Hemp.

OAR 851-045-0060 (5) of the Nurse Practice Act requires that nurses advocate for the client’s right to appropriate and accurate information. In the nursing function of discharge education, if the client discloses that they use recreational marijuana, the nurse must know and explain the interactions between marijuana and the client’s prescribed medication. It is incumbent of every nurse to understand the effects of marijuana and how those effects could place the client at risk, particularly if a prescription is for controlled substances. Discharge teaching regarding interaction of marijuana with prescription medications is not the same as counseling the client on the use of marijuana for alleviation of symptoms.

Approved by the OSBN: Nov 2019