



16 MODULES

Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum

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To help physicians understand the impact and implications of medical marijuana, the MMS and TheAnswerPage.com have developed a **Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum**. The curriculum's 16 modules introduce the physician to the endocannabinoid system and its interactions with medical cannabis. The course builds on this foundation to address cannabis administration, dosing, contraindications, metabolism, and drug interactions. Studies addressing the physiologic, cognitive, and mental health effects of cannabis are reviewed in detail. In addition, Modules 8 through 16 are focused on the medical use of cannabis for 10 distinct disease states.

The curriculum provides a total of 26 CME risk management credits and addresses topics that include the following: a discussion of the endocannabinoid system and phytocannabinoids, medical cannabis dosing and contraindications, physiological and cognitive effects, a history of medical cannabis and mental health effects, among other topics.

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About TheAnswerPage.com

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Overview

Recognition for the need for ALL healthcare practitioners to be educated on the endocannabinoid system and the health effects of cannabis

The Massachusetts Medical Society Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum

Massachusetts to require healthcare professional medical cannabis education and implementing the process

“Medical Professional of the Year”

Stephen B. Corn, MD



For CAB Public Health
Subcommittee Discussion Only

“Medical Professional of the Year”

Meredith Fisher-Corn, MD



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Stephen B. Corn, MD and Meredith Fisher-Corn, MD
are the 2017 recipients of the
International Association for Cannabinoid Medicine

"Special Award for Major Contributions to the
Reintroduction of Cannabis as Medicine."

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Dr. Mechoulam Grand Rounds



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New York State Department of Health



New York State Practitioner Education – Medical Use of Marijuana Course

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Florida Medical Association & Florida Osteopathic Medical Association



Compassionate Medical Cannabis CME Course

Includes Clinical Indications for the Legal and Appropriate use of "Low-THC" Cannabis in Florida



**FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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July 18, 2017

Dear Dr. Corn:

On behalf of the Office of Medical Marijuana, I would like to congratulate you and your company for being approved as an approved training entity with the Medical Marijuana Program. As an approved training entity, your company's program information will be available to physicians and medical professionals to access as part of the registration process. In addition, your company's information will be maintained on the Department's website for any medical professional seeking medical information relating to the recommendation and use of medical marijuana.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend you on the level of work that you and your team of experts compiled for this course. The research you provided in your course curriculum concerning the use and recommendation of medical marijuana is extremely detailed and exceeded the requirements provided in the regulations. I am confident that medical professionals will benefit from the expertise that you and your team bring to this area.

We are confident that you will be changing your course materials from time to time to reflect new medical research that becomes available on the social and medical impact of using medical marijuana. Should you decide to make any changes to the curriculum submitted and approved in the training provider application, you must provide those changes to the Department at least 30-days before they are added to the curriculum. I always look forward to reviewing new research material in this area and would especially look forward to discussing new materials with you before it is released to the medical community.

Again, congratulations to you and your company on becoming an approved training provider in the Medical Marijuana Program. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence M. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lawrence Clark
Deputy Director

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MMS Partners with The Answer Page

Vital Signs: April 2012

The Massachusetts Medical Society has entered a joint sponsorship with The Answer Page, Inc.

TheAnswerPage.com employs the Socratic question-and-answer teaching method that characterizes much of the clinical educational experience. Content is prepared by clinical faculty members who are highly regarded for their teaching expertise. The questions and answers provided are all peer reviewed and referenced from current texts and recent literature.

Educational areas include pain medicine, opioid prescribing, palliative care, risk management, hospital medicine, perioperative medicine, anesthesiology, and clinical statistics.

Members can earn 1.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™ by reading a week's worth of content (Monday through Friday) and completing either the Interactive Crossword Puzzle or Quiz with a passing grade of 70%.

Multiple credits can be earned by accessing more than one content area. During the month of April, MMS members using the promo code MMS412 will receive \$100 off the annual subscription fee of \$299.

The Answer Page was founded in 1998 to provide daily education to doctors and other health care professionals. It is currently read in over 40 countries and has more than 20,000 registered users.

The Answer Page has granted more than 100,000 hours of *AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits*™. In addition to traditional CME quizzes, TheAnswerPage.com now offers a unique interactive crossword puzzles for a fun and effective learning experience.

The Answer Page's database stores and organizes each subscriber's CME information and allows users to easily download, email, or print CME certificates at any time.

— Stephen Corn, M.D., co-founder, and John Stephenson, CEO, The Answer Page, Inc.



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Access to the *New England Journal of Medicine*
A strong voice to advocate medical issues
Conferences and Events on important topics
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MMS Education

All Other Events

February 01	8th Annual Women's Cardiac Health Conference (3.75 CME Credit)
February 02	New England Dermatological Society Lahey Clinical Meeting (5.00 CME Credit)
February 06	Preventing Falls in Older Patients WEBINAR (1.50 CME Credit)
February 08	Impact of Effective Communication (3.75 CME Credit)
February 27	How to Prepare for ACOs - MSO Winter Program (2.00 CME Credit)

[See Full Event View](#)



Mass Medical Society
MassMedical

MassMedical RT @amednews: One area overlooked in contract negotiations by employed physicians: pay for nonclinical duties
bit.ly/W3FKsM
16 hours ago · [reply](#) · [retweet](#) · [favorite](#)

sarahkliff There are just two states where the majority of adults have received flu vaccines: Massachusetts and South Dakota.
<https://twitter.com/sarahkliff/status/1019149898>



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Every physician matters, each patient counts.

October 17, 2016

Stephen B. Corn, MD
Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine
Brigham and Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Dr. Corn,

I'm happy to provide you with a number of significant updates to the courses jointly provided with the Massachusetts Medical Society and TheAnswerPage.

Since 2013, over 7,000 courses have been completed by physicians and other health professionals for the anesthesiology, pain medicine, opioid prescribing, perioperative medicine, hospital medicine, palliative care and medical statistics content that you developed.

The *Opioid Prescribing Series*, comprised of six modules and hosted on the Massachusetts Medical Society's website, is one of the most popular opioid series reaching physicians and other health care providers in Massachusetts and the majority of states throughout the country. Since 2013, when the *Opioid Prescribing Series* first became available, over 11,000 courses have been completed. With your approval, as part of a collaborative effort with MA Governor Charlie Baker's office, we have been offering this opioid series at no charge to all health care professionals since May 2015.

In addition, the Massachusetts Medical Society has also been linking directly to *The Medical Marijuana-Medical, Legal, Social and Political Issues* series that you developed and host on TheAnswerPage website. This content has provided a valuable resource for clinicians seeking hard to find factual information, as well as for physicians who certify patients for use of medical marijuana.

Most recently, the MMS Committee on Sponsored Programs reviewed and approved for CME credit, the *Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum* that you developed. The Committee also confirmed that the activity meets the MA Board of Registration in Medicine's definition of risk management study.

I'll end this update with compelling feedback from a learner who participated in the *Opioid Prescribing Series*. In answer to the course evaluation question asking what the learner will change as a result of completing the courses, this physician stated, "*I will be sure that all other options are exhausted before starting chronic opiate therapy.*" This feedback reinforces our objectives for safe opioid prescribing in Massachusetts supported by three studies released earlier this year that show opioid prescribing rates have declined in Massachusetts. The studies were done by [athenahealth](#), the Cambridge-based [Workers' Compensation Research Institute](#), and the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#).

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Massachusetts Medical Society



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Medical Marijuana CME

January 8, 2014

Medical Marijuana CME

Recently promulgated regulations in Massachusetts require that starting July 1, 2014, physicians who certify patients for medical marijuana must first complete two hours of Continuing Medical Education credits.

The Answer Page provides the following educational content on the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

- Medical Marijuana Primer Week
- Medical Marijuana Basics Week 2
- The FDA Drug Approval Process
- Federal Marijuana Laws
- Medical Marijuana Laws and Agreements
- The Development and Evolution of the Cannabis Dispensary
- Medical Marijuana Potpourri
- The Pharmacology of Cannabis and Cannabinergic Medicines
- Medicinal Cannabis in the Treatment of Chronic Pain Syndromes
- Cannabis as a Substitute for Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome

This content is jointly sponsored by the Massachusetts Medical Society and The Answer Page and approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*.™

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Dr. Henry L. Dorkin, FAAP, President
Massachusetts Medical Society

“With legalization of both medical marijuana and recreational marijuana growing in states across the U.S., it is imperative that physicians be prepared to answer questions about marijuana use and to counsel their patients about any potential impact of cannabis”

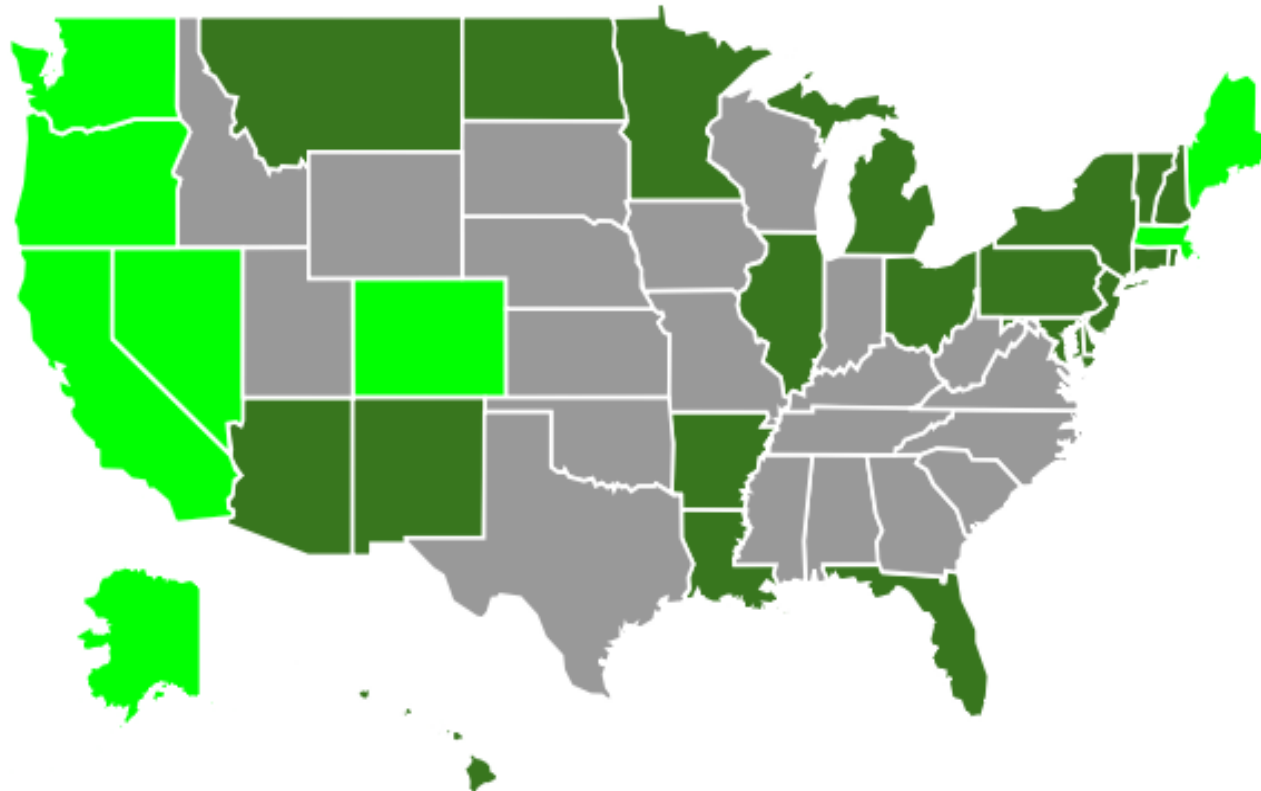
Q: What information on cannabis or medical marijuana is contained in the PDR?

A: Nothing



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Information is current as of Sept. 14, 2017.



Marijuana Legalization Status

- Medical marijuana broadly legalized
- Marijuana legalized for recreational use
- No broad laws legalizing marijuana

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“Marijuana-Related ER Visits Skyrocket 133 Percent Among Kids”

All doctors and healthcare providers must be educated on the endocannabinoid system and the health effects of medical cannabis if, at the least, they are going to have meaningful discussions with their patients and their family members.

Massachusetts Medical Society launches Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum series for doctors and all healthcare providers

The Massachusetts Medical Society, together with Dr. Stephen B. Corn and Dr. Meredith Fisher-Corn from medical education website TheAnswerPage.com, has developed a Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum intended to equip doctors and healthcare providers with a robust training on the medical, legal and social issues regarding marijuana use.



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Dr. Henry L. Dorkin, FAAP, President Massachusetts Medical Society

“The Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum is neither an endorsement of the usage of cannabinoid medications by the Massachusetts Medical Society nor a recommendation to impede healthcare professionals from considering utilization of medical cannabis.”

“We are confident that the curriculum, which was subject to multiple layers of expert review, will provide the data needed to facilitate (between patients and their healthcare providers) informed, balanced, transparent and important conversations, based upon the strongest and most comprehensive research available at present.”

Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum Massachusetts Medical Society

“The course addresses a huge knowledge deficit clinicians have regarding risks and benefits of marijuana and other cannabinoids.

The chapters have been written by leading experts and the presentation is very balanced with an emphasis on the best available evidence.

This is just what doctors need to be able to have constructive conversations with their patients when the subject of medical marijuana comes up.”

Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum Massachusetts Medical Society

The course provides details of the endocannabinoid system and its interactions with medical cannabis, cannabis administration, dosing, contraindications, metabolism and drug interactions. Studies addressing the physiologic, cognitive and mental health effects of cannabis are reviewed in detail.

Additional modules are focused on the medical use of cannabis for 10 distinct disease states, including ALS, cancer, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS, Huntington's Disease, IBS, multiple sclerosis and spasticity, neuropathic pain and Parkinson's Disease.

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Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum Massachusetts Medical Society

Module 1 - Endocannabinoid System and Phytocannabinoids

Module 2 - Guidance on the Recommendation of Medical Cannabis

Module 2.1 - General Information about Medical Marijuana under Federal Law

Module 3 - Cannabis Products, Modes of Administration, Dosing Considerations and Contraindications

Module 4 - Cannabis: Physiologic and Cognitive Effects

Module 5 – Cannabis Use and Mental Health Effects

Module 6 - Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome

Module 7 - The History of Medical Cannabis

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Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum Massachusetts Medical Society

Module 8 - Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Module 9 - Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in Cancer

Module 10 - Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in Epilepsy

Module 11 - Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in HIV/AIDS

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Huntington's Disease

Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum Massachusetts Medical Society

Module 13 - Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in
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Module 14 - Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in Multiple
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Module 15 - Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in
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Module 16 - Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in
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Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum Massachusetts Medical Society

Coming soon.....

Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids as a substitute for opioids and other drugs

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How to implement a physician medical cannabis CME education requirement

The 2017 amendments to the 2016 act (The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act) empowers the **Cannabis Control Commission** as follows (Section 4 of Chapter 94I of Massachusetts General Laws, subsection 4):

Any healthcare professional that issues a written certificate for medical use of marijuana shall register with the **Cannabis Control Commission** pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Commission.

How to implement a physician medical cannabis CME education requirement

Chapter 10, section 77(b)(3) of Massachusetts General Laws provides that the **Cannabis Advisory Board** shall:

On its own initiative, recommend to the commission guidelines, rules and regulations and any changes to guidelines, rules and regulations that the board considers important or necessary.....

How to implement a physician medical cannabis CME education requirement

Reading these two portions of the relevant laws indicates that the Cannabis Advisory Board may recommend to the **Cannabis Control Commission** that the Commission should issue a regulation applicable to all marijuana certifying healthcare professionals that such certifiers must complete a course on the medical uses of marijuana as proscribed by the Commission. The Cannabis Advisory Board may further specify that the course must be the Massachusetts Medical Society Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum.

The **Cannabis Control Commission** must hold a public hearing before promulgating or changing any regulation, and perhaps solicit written comments as well.

How to implement a physician medical cannabis CME education requirement

The above cited law that legalized medical marijuana is silent on the subject of healthcare professional education for recreational marijuana.

The most direct way of proceeding is for the Cannabis Advisory Board to make its suggestion regarding the Massachusetts Medical Society Comprehensive Cannabis Curriculum to the **Board of Registration in Medicine** through its parent, the **Executive Office of Health and Human Services** (EOHHS). The Department of Public Health is a co-equal part of the EOHHS with the Board of Registration.

The Board of Registration appears to be the body with the authority to add marijuana education to its list of required qualifications for new or renewal of medical licenses.



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About TheAnswerPage.com

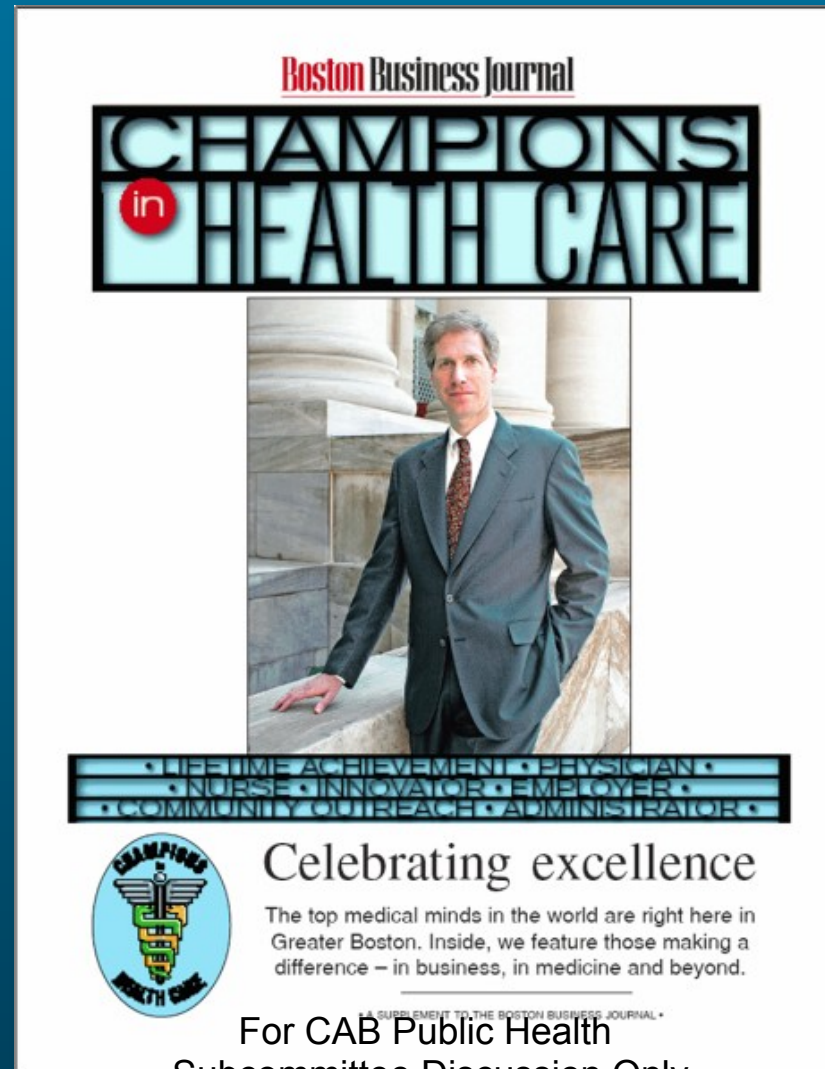
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Stephen B. Corn, MD

Named “Champion in Health Care” for
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