



# Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

April 2016



*Did you know .....*

#### Cannabidiol (CBD oil)

CBD oil is legal in Iowa under very specific restrictions. Since 2014 it is legal for a parent or caregiver of a child with intractable epilepsy to possess 32 ounces of CBD oil after appropriate paperwork has been approved. CBD oil is a non-psychoactive component of the marijuana plant.

#### Naloxone (Narcan®)

On April 6, 2016, Governor Terry Branstad signed Senate File 2218 which allows first responders and other persons who may be able to render aid to possess and administer an opioid antagonist, naloxone, to assist in the treatment of opioid overdose victims.

## Legal vs Illegal Marijuana

**What's the difference?**

The "war on drugs" has been going on for many years in the U.S. State and federal laws strictly prohibit the use of certain drugs. But which drugs are illegal and which are legal? Drugs can cross into both categories depending on their use. Marijuana is one of those controversial drugs.

**Marijuana** can be prescribed by physicians in some states for various medical reasons such as muscle spasms, chronic pain, nausea caused by chemotherapy, poor appetite, HIV associated weight loss, seizure disorders, glaucoma, headaches, Crohn's disease, and more. A growing number of states are making medical marijuana use legal. However, many times its legality depends on medical supervision and also its medical purpose. Medical marijuana may be smoked, vaporized, ingested, or taken as liquid extract. Side effects include dizziness, drowsiness, short-term memory loss, and euphoria. More serious side effects include severe anxiety and psychosis. The only FDA approved forms of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, are dronabinol (Marinol®) and nabilone (Cesamet®).

**Synthetic cannabinoids** first went on sale in the U.S. in the 2000's. Slang words often used for this type of drug are K2, Spice, and fake-weed. These drugs are not naturally occurring and are man-made chemical compounds. Therefore, synthetic cannabinoids should be considered a "designer drug". Laboratory analysis has revealed some of these compounds to be JWH-018, JWH-073, HU-210, and many more. Laboratories creating these compounds are constantly changing the chemical structures, so many times the actual compounds being used remain unknown. These synthetic compounds are often sprayed onto plant material and marketed as herbal incense. Synthetic cannabinoids are extremely powerful, vary in strength, and can cause severe adverse effects. Some adverse effects include psychosis, severe agitation, hallucinations, and death. These drugs evade routine blood and urine drug tests. Many of these chemicals are illegal, however, due to the structures constantly changing it can be hard to restrict sale, manufacture, and legality.

Call the Iowa Poison Control Center at **1-800-222-1222** for further assistance.

Pat Gunia RN, BSN, CSPI  
*Certified Specialist in Poison Information*

**POISON**  
**Help**  
**1-800-222-1222**

*Hotline Editor: Kimberly Zellmer, PharmD; Deputy Editor: Edward Bottei, MD*

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