



American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

New Mexico Chapter



Dominick V. Zurlo, PhD
Director, Medical Cannabis Program
New Mexico Department of Health
1474 Rodeo Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

December 2, 2019

Dear Dr. Zurlo:

The New Mexico Pediatric Society (NMPS), the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, representing pediatricians throughout New Mexico, opposes the inclusion of ADD or ADHD as an approved condition under the medical cannabis regulations. As pediatricians who treat children and adolescents as well as young adults with ADD/ADHD, we cannot endorse any treatment options that are outside of the FDA approval process. Because marijuana is not regulated by the FDA, and the purity and THC content cannot be consistently verified, the risk/benefit cannot be determined. With the approval of drugs like Epidiolex, which is derived from marijuana, the pharmaceutical companies are addressing the needs for marijuana-derived pharmaceuticals in a safe way.

The NMPS strongly supports the AAP's position that children and youth should receive care for common disorders such as ADD/ADHD within a patient-centered Medical Home. If the New Mexico Cannabis Board recommends and the Secretary of the Department of Health approves the use of medical marijuana for ADD/ADHD, parents will go outside their medical home to seek medical marijuana to treat their children with ADD/ADHD. This will lead to a lack of coordination of care for these patients with special health care needs like AA/ADHD. Again, we urge the Medical Cannabis Board and the Secretary of Health to reject this application for the use of medical marijuana for ADD/ADHD.

Sincerely yours,

Laurence Shandler, MD

Laurence Shandler, MD FAAP
New Mexico Pediatric Society/American Academy of Pediatrics