

# CANNABIS BEFORE SURGERY

## Information About Cannabis Use Prior to Your Operation

### What if I am using cannabis for medical purposes?

It is routine for patients to be asked to discontinue prescribed medications before surgery. Cannabis is no different.

### Is smoking cannabis safer than smoking cigarettes?

No. You are at risk of developing lung disease from smoking cannabis. Lung disease from either cannabis or cigarette smoking may increase anesthesia related complications, and could affect healing after surgery.

### Further Questions?

Please contact the Pre-Surgery Treatment Clinic Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (705) 728-9090 Ext 4674

### Does Cannabis Use Increase My Anesthetic Risk?

This is a difficult question to answer. Anesthetic risk has many variables and is often related to your unique medical issues and specific surgery. Individuals who use cannabis do so in many ways, forms and amounts. Therefore, its effect on the body is difficult to predict when combined with a wide variety of anesthetic agents and techniques.

Currently, we do not have enough evidence to say that cannabis **alone** will increase your anesthetic risk **when stopped at an appropriate time**. Although it is recommended that you abstain from cannabis use **as long as possible** prior to your surgery, below is the minimum time you would be expected to stop before receiving an anesthetic.

#### **CANNABIS (MARIJUANA)**

**Smoked/Vaporized: STOP 12 hours before Surgery**

**Ingested: STOP 12 hours before Surgery**

#### **CANNABIDIOL (CBD OIL)**

**Oral Dosing/Ingested: STOP 4 hours before Surgery**

Your attending Anesthesiologist has a legal obligation to provide you with the safest care possible during your surgery. On rare occasions there may be times where your surgery is delayed, postponed or canceled at their discretion.

Under **no** circumstances will you receive an anesthetic for nonemergency surgery if you are intoxicated.

