SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY UNIT (SARU) PROGRAM STATEMENT ON MEDICAL CANNABIS

An offender with a recommendation for medical cannabis will be admitted to a Department substance use disorder treatment program if:

- The use of medical cannabis qualifies under RCW 69.51A,
- Substance use disorder treatment program eligibility requirements are met,
- The process outlined in DOC 420.380 Drug/Alcohol Testing is followed, and
- The SARU Clinical Supervisor determines that the offender will benefit from the treatment program.

If the SARU Clinical Supervisor determines that the offender will not benefit from treatment, or if no accommodations can be made to admit the offender to the program without threatening the recovery of other treatment participants, SARU will support the offender’s needs by referring him/her to an alternate provider.

Eligibility Requirements - The offender must meet all criteria for admission to substance use disorder treatment program:

2. Provide documented approval from the Department Chief Medical Officer for the use of medical cannabis.
3. Cannot be used in the smokable form, only in the ingestible form (i.e., Marinol).
4. The substance use disorder assessment must not indicate cannabis as the diagnosed primary substance.
5. Complete and submit:
   a. DOC 14-172 Substance Abuse Recovery Unit Compound Release of Confidential Information to the recommending health care professional to permit discussion of treatment planning and, in cases where treatment is mandated by the court, to permit treatment provider to discuss medical cannabis with the referring court.
      - The offender must sign the release to be admitted into the program.
   b. DOC 14-144 Substance Use Disorder Medical Cannabis/Prescription Drug Agreement.
6. Must submit to random, regular drug testing by the assigned CCO to monitor THC level.

Medical cannabis administration in Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) certified programs violates federal requirements under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) Block Grant.