

Cannabis Walk & Talk

The walk from the waiting room to the exam room is an opportunity for medical assistants to informally check-in with their patients and offer gentle reminders. The following script can be used during this “walk and talk” time.

Background: Over the past decade, more states have legalized recreational and/or medicinal cannabis (marijuana) sales. With increased accessibility to cannabis and increased variety of products that include THC (the active ingredient in cannabis that causes a “high”), more patients are potentially hearing about the effects of cannabis and ingesting cannabis. It is important to clarify that there is still limited scientific research on cannabis, including effects that can be helpful or harmful. This card gives patients current research on cannabis.

Medical Assistant: *calls patient from waiting room*

Patient: *walks back to the hallway*

Medical assistant: * Hi! How are you?*

Patient: “Fine, thanks. You?”

Medical assistant: “Good! We are sharing this card with all of our patients to educate people on the current research around cannabis/marijuana, since it has become more of a hot topic in recent years. There is a lot of information around cannabis that is casually shared, but the scientific research on potential positive and negative effects of cannabis is still fairly limited. Cannabis potency over the years has increased which is linked to health concerns especially with individuals under the age of 18. There are some resources on the back of the card and if you have any questions, the doctor will be happy to discuss them with you.” *hands postcard with graphic to patient*

Patient: “Oh, okay. Thanks.”

Medical assistant: “You’re welcome.”