

HOSPITALS — MEDICAL CANNABIS

**1195. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to a recent study from the United States that shows that even in states that have legalised both medicinal and recreational cannabis, there is still a marked tendency for hospital staff to refuse inpatients access to their prescribed medicinal cannabis in favour of an opioid replacement.

- (1) Are there any guidelines for hospitals here in WA on how best to treat admitted patients who have a medical cannabis prescription?
- (2) If no to (1), will the Department of Health consider formulating guidelines to encourage hospitals to respect, where possible, the medication properly prescribed by a GP who potentially knows the patient's circumstances far better than the hospital team do?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. It has restored my equilibrium after yesterday's little foray into other matters!

- (1) Yes. Mandatory policy 139/20, Medicines Handling Policy, includes requirements for cannabis-based products for medicinal use. The policy states cannabis-based products for therapeutic use are subject to the same regulatory controls as other schedule 4 and schedule 8 medicines.
- (2) Not applicable.