



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Michael Sentance
 State Superintendent of Education

November 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Michael Sentance *MS*
 State Superintendent of Education

RE: Medical Marijuana

The Alabama Senate enacted Act #2016-268 also known and cited as *Leni's Law*. The law allows for limited use of non-psychoactive cannabidiol (CBD) oil for specified debilitating condition that produce seizures and is not intended as a generalized authorization of medical marijuana. The law specifically notes "that nothing in the law shall be construed to allow or accommodate the prescription, testing, medical use, or possession of any other form of Cannabis" other than that defined in Section 2 Part F, of the law.

Currently, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Department of Neurology, is conducting a clinical trial with Cannabidiol (CBD) produced as a pharmaceutical grade product. The research, which includes an adult study at UAB and a pediatric study at Children's of Alabama, was authorized by the Alabama Legislature in 2014 through legislation known as *Carly's Law*. The oil used in the studies is produced under stringent requirements of the United States Food and Drug Administration by a licensed pharmaceutical company. It contains no THC, the psychoactive component of marijuana. The process developed by GW Pharmaceuticals provides consistency of the product that is provided to study participants in the study.

A designated caregiver (usually a parent or private caregiver) is responsible to possess the medication and administer it as directed in the study. The medication provided in the UAB pediatric study is given twice a day and normally not during school hours.

The Alabama State Department of Education understands that the federal government classifies marijuana as a **Schedule I Medication**; therefore, doctors are unable to prescribe CBD to their patients apart from Carly's Law. Additionally, patients cannot go to a pharmacy to fill a prescription for CBD. Furthermore, the medication should not be accepted on school property or by school personnel.

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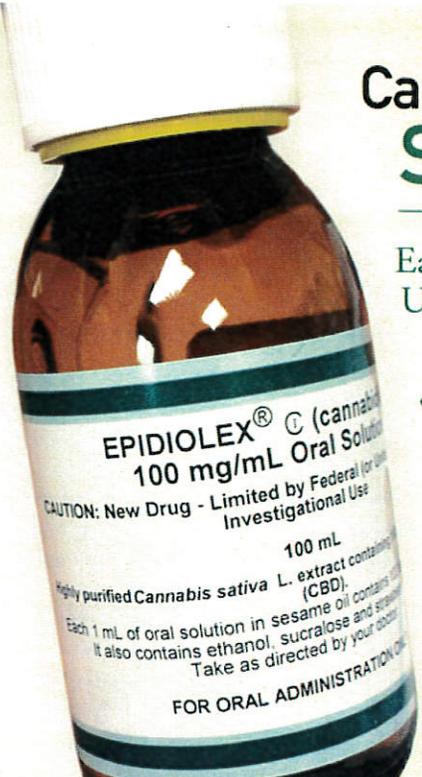
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For identification purposes, the photo shown below is currently the only form of medical CBD used in the UAB clinical trial under *Carly's Law*. It is not currently possible to identify CBD that may meet the requirements of *Leni's Law*. Again, neither this medication nor any other CBD should be accepted or administered on school property due to federal guidelines regarding **Schedule I Medication**.



Cannabidiol oil therapy for SEVERE SEIZURES

Early results from studies at UAB and Children's of Alabama:

- ~50% of 51 subjects saw sustained improvement in seizure control.
- 32-45% declines in seizures among this group (*depending on CBD dose*)

2 PATIENTS WERE SEIZURE-FREE

9 PATIENTS DROPPED OUT
due to lack of efficacy or side effects

For any other request made concerning CBD that may come from another study or state, please immediately notify Ms. Jennifer Ventress, Ms. Lisa Tubbs, or Ms. LaBrenda Marshall by telephone at 334-242-8165 or by e-mail at jventress@alsde.edu, ltubbs@alsde.edu, or lmarshall@alsde.edu for guidance on a case-by-case basis.

MS/JV/SF

cc: Lead Nurses

FY17-2009