

Cannabis and the Psychiatric Patient: Therapeutic or Harmful? What the Clinician Needs to Know

presented by

Godfrey D. Pearlson, MD

Dr. Pearlson earned his medical degree at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (England). After internship he completed a graduate degree in philosophy at Columbia University, then trained and worked at Johns Hopkins Psychiatry (1976–2002), becoming Professor of Psychiatry and founding Director of the Division of Psychiatry Neuroimaging. He also trained with Dr. Marion Fischman in safe laboratory administration of abused substances to research volunteers. He is currently Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Yale School of Medicine, founding Director (2002) of the Institute of Living's 50-person Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center, and IOL Research Director. His neuroimaging research focuses on psychosis (including B-SNIP) and addiction, particularly cannabis. His "firsts" include complex behavior paradigms conducted in MRI (e.g., simulated driving) and the first PET demonstration of cocaine-induced dopamine release in humans. He led BARCS, a longitudinal substance abuse study of 2000 CT college freshmen. He has published ~1000 peer-reviewed scientific articles (h-index 151), holds several current NIH R01s, has multiple research and mentorship awards and co-founded BrainDance. He authored *The Science of Weed* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024).

Arthur Guerra, APRN

Art Guerra is a Nurse Practitioner who has worked here at the IOL for 40 years. He is a graduate of Central CT State University, received his BSN through Elms University and MSN through University of St Joseph. Art has worked in a variety of leadership roles both inpatient and ambulatory, along with maintaining an active outpatient practice for over the past 30 years. Notable roles included Director of Residential, Director of Adult Outpatient Clinic and Director of the Peripartum Program. Currently, Art is the Director of Advanced Practice here at the Institute of Living.

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<https://hartfordhealthcare.zoom.us/j/91704770426>

Learning Objectives: *As a result of participating in this Live Activity, participants should be able to:*

- 1. Identify three distinct constituents of the cannabis plant that have alleged therapeutic properties in treating specific psychiatric disorders.*
- 2. Explain specific risks associated with the frequent use of high THC-containing cannabis in teenagers and young adults.*
- 3. Explain specific risks associated with the frequent use of high THC-containing cannabis in teenagers and young adults.*

Accreditation: In support of improving patient care, Hartford HealthCare is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physicians: Hartford HealthCare designates this Live Activity for a maximum of **1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses: This activity is designated for a maximum **1.25 ANCC** contact hours.

Psychologists: Continuing Education (CE) credits for psychologists are provided through the co-sponsorship of the American Psychological Association (APA) Office of Continuing Education in Psychology (CEP). The APA CEP Office maintains responsibility for the content of the programs.

Social Workers: As a Jointly Accredited Organization, Hartford HealthCare is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. Hartford HealthCare maintains responsibility for this course. Social workers completing this course receive **1.25 general** continuing education credits.

Other Learners: All other learners will receive a Certificate of Participation for **1.25** hours of education. Consult your professional licensing board regarding the applicability and acceptance of certificates of participation for educational activities certified for **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** from organizations accredited by Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education.

Financial Disclosures:

- Arthur Guerra, APRN: Nothing to disclose - 12/05/2025
- Godfrey D Pearlson, MD: Nothing to disclose - 01/21/2026

