

# New York State Academy of Family Physicians

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## STATEMENT

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### **NYS Academy of Family Physicians Applauds Action Taken by NYS Office of Cannabis Management to Regulate Packaging, Labelling and Marketing of Adult Use Cannabis Products -Statement by Andrew Symons, President MD, MS, FAAFP**

“The New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) which represents nearly 7,000 physicians, residents and students in family medicine across the State applauds the action taken this week to prohibit marketing of cannabis products to youth.”

“In particular the New York State Office of Cannabis Management’s Cannabis Control Board voted to approve draft regulations on June 1st for the packaging, labelling, and marketing of adult-use cannabis in New York. The OCM’s proposed packaging and labeling rules incorporate feedback provided by the New York State Academy of Family Physicians, including recommendations to prohibit marketing of cannabis products to youth. The labelling requirements will ensure that consumers are informed about the product, including appropriate warnings.”

“The proposed rules regarding recreational cannabis packaging would require products to be child-resistant, tamper-evident, resealable, non-toxic, fully enclosed, and include a universal symbol indicating that the package contains cannabis. Distributors are also prohibited from featuring false or misleading statements including any health claims on packaging.”

“Imagery attractive to youth including cartoons, characters, public figures, phrases, toys, or games are also prohibited. The rules prohibit use of cartoon-like characters, certain fonts or bright, neon colors, or have any imitation of food, candy, soda, drinks, cookies, or cereal in marketing.”

“The regulations further require numerous warnings to be included in retail packaging, including specific language to keep products out of reach of children and pets and that the product is only to be used by persons 21 years and older. The product packaging must also include warnings against use by those who are pregnant or nursing, smoking/vaping warnings, warnings of delayed effects, and contact information for the National Poison Control Center.”

“Finally, the packaging label will be required to list all ingredients, a nutritional label and recommended serving size for edible or beverage products, an expiration date, a use by date, the

total THC and CBD in milligrams, clear usage instructions, a scannable bar code or QR code linked to a downloadable certificate of analysis, and the name, address, license number, and contact information for the manufacturer or distributor.”

“OCMs approved regulation takes a critical first step in trying to reduce youth appeal, use and access to cannabis as New York moves forward with implementing its retail sales. We appreciate the opportunity to have provided feedback and feel that the voice and perspective of family physicians looking out for the public health of our communities and our children was heard.”

*Family Physicians are board-certified and specialize in family medicine. Family physicians focus on the whole patient providing care throughout their lifetime. They provide comprehensive healthcare services to treat diseases and injuries in all age groups from newborns to the geriatric population and across all medical fields. The expertise of family physicians is not limited by problem origin, organ system or diagnosis. Many family physicians also deliver babies and perform procedures such as endoscopies, minor surgery and dermatological procedures.*

*Family Physicians focus on prevention, wellness and overall care coordination for patients and family medicine is the only specialty to focus on the care of the entire family unit. Family Physicians are also a main source of primary health care in New York and across the country.*