

# **THE ROLE OF NURSES IN PROMOTING THE SAFE USE OF MEDICINAL CANNABIS**



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# Introduction: Historical and Legal Context

- 16th century: Cannabis introduced in Brazil by the Portuguese for medicinal and recreational use.
- 1961: Global prohibition under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.
- 2006: Drug Law 11.343 criminalizes possession, creating legal uncertainty.
- 2015: Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária - ANVISA) authorizes cannabidiol (CBD) import for specific conditions.
- 2019: Resolution of the Collegiate Board (Resolução da Diretoria Colegiada - RDC) 327 allows national production of cannabis-based medicines.
- 2024: Brazilian Federal Supreme Court (Supremo Tribunal Federal - STF) decriminalizes personal possession up to for 40 grams.
- 2025: ANVISA launches public consultation to revise RDC 327.



# Introduction: Public Health and Nursing Roles

- Unified Health System (SUS): Brazil's national healthcare model providing universal, free access to health services.
- Nurses in SUS: Key figures in primary care: conducting nursing consultations, prescribing medications (within protocols), requesting exams, and managing health units.

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## Objective of the study:

- Investigate how nurses contribute to the safe use of medicinal cannabis.
- Identify their responsibilities, contributions, and the challenges they face
- Explore educational and policy-related needs for professional recognition



# Methodological Approach

**Study type:** Integrative literature review.

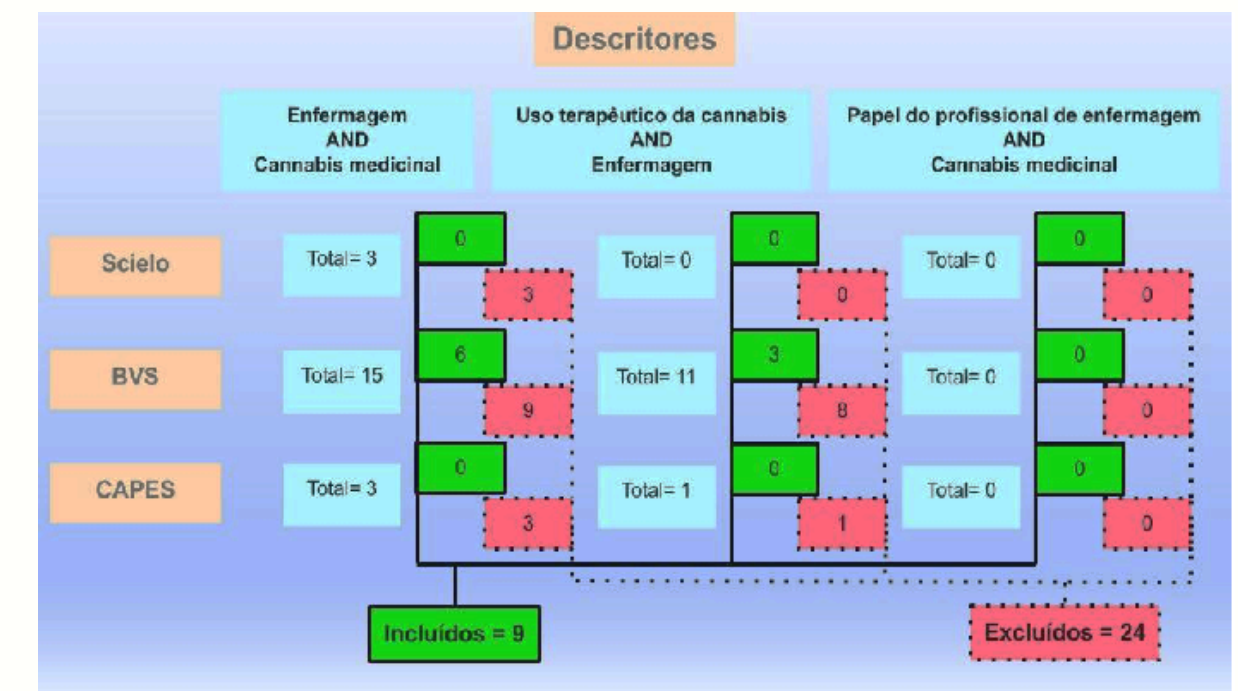
**Databases:** Virtual Health Library (BVS), Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), and MEDLINE.

**Search criteria:** Studies published from two 2019 to 2024, focused on nursing and medicinal cannabis.

**Result:** 33 studies initially found, 9 selected after screening.

**Language distribution:**

- Most studies were published in foreign languages.
- Only 1 study was published in Portuguese.





# Contributions and Challenges of Nursing

## Main nursing contributions:

- Health education for patients and families
- Monitoring therapeutic and adverse effects
- Participating in public policies and promoting safe care environments

## Challenges faced:

- Lack of specific clinical guidelines
- Absence of cannabis-related content in academic training
- Legal uncertainty and social stigma

# Conclusions and Future Directions

**Medicinal cannabis is part of current clinical practice in Brazil.**

- Nursing still lacks regulation in this field.
- Nursing plays a key role in patient-centered care and harm reduction.

## Urgent actions:

Include cannabis in academic and continuing education

Develop specific clinical protocols for nursing

Provide legal and institutional support for safe practice



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