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Medical Marijuana

3-2018

Dear Patients and Families,

AndrewsPatel physicians will not be prescribing Medical marijuana. If a patient is interested due to symptoms related to cancer or a different condition the AndrewsPatel physician is managing, we will be glad to assist with referring to a physician who is able to prescribe. Below you will find some fast facts and FAQs.

Medical marijuana became available for sale in PA on 2/15/18.

Who can get Medical marijuana?

Someone who is suffering from one of the 17 approved medical conditions.

1. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
2. Epilepsy
3. Glaucoma
4. Autism
5. Cancer
6. Chron's Disease
7. Damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord and suffering from specific symptoms
8. HIV/AIDS
9. Huntington's Disease
10. Intractable Seizures
11. Multiple Sclerosis
11. Neuropathies
12. Parkinson's Disease
13. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
14. Sickle Cell Anemia
17. Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable pain in which conventional therapeutic intervention and opiate therapy is contraindicated or ineffective

How does a patient get Medical Marijuana?

- First the patient needs to register for the medical marijuana program at www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov.
- Next, the patient needs to obtain a physician's certification of a qualified medical condition. This is done during an office visit scheduled with an approved physician. The physician that you see will require a copy of your medical records from Andrews Patel Hematology Oncology to verify the diagnosis and need for symptom management. For patients interested in a referral to an approved practitioner, please schedule an office visit at AndrewsPatel to discuss it with the physician or Advance Practice Provider (CRNP or PA-C).
- Then, complete the registration by paying for a medical marijuana ID card. The cost is \$50.
- Finally, visit a dispensary to obtain medical marijuana using the ID card. (see list attached)

What is the cost of medical marijuana? Will my insurance cover it?

- Insurance does not cover medical marijuana. This includes Medicare, Medical Assistance, and all commercial insurances.
- There are two costs
 - The medical marijuana ID card: \$50.
 - The cost of the medical marijuana, which may vary by region and dispensary. In the first days of the medical marijuana program, news reports cited prices ranging from \$ 30 to \$95 per gram.

Is travel with medical marijuana allowed out of Pennsylvania?

It depends. As more states legalized medical marijuana, they are starting to address how to hand out-of-state medical marijuana patients. But it is a work in progress so be well-informed and careful.

What forms of medical marijuana are permitted in Pennsylvania?

- Pill.
- Oil.
- Topical forms (gel, creams and ointments).
- Vaporization formula.
- Tincture or Liquid.
- Leaf marijuana is not permitted in PA. Therefore, you cannot smoke medical marijuana in Pennsylvania.

Can medical marijuana be used at work?

It is up to individual employers to decide.

Where to get more information?

- Ask your doctor.
- Visit www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov.
- Visit the American Cancer Society at <https://www.cancer.org/treatment/treatments-and-side-effects/complementary-and-alternative-medicine/marijuana-and-cancer.html>

Currently here are six dispensaries in PA:

- Cresco Yeltrah-Butler, 201 Pillow St. Butler, PA, 724-276-0069
- Keystone Canna Remedies, 1309 Stefko Blvd., Bethlehem, PA, 484-408-6122
- Solevo-Squirrel Hill, 5600 Forward Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217, 412-422-0420
- Organic Remedies-Enola, 4425 Valley Road, Enola, PA 17025, 717-562-7758
- Terra Vida Holistic Center-Sellersville, 64 N. Main St., Sellersville, PA 18960, 215-257-3243
- Keystone Shops-Devon, 420 West Lancaster Ave., Devon, PA, 484-581-7189

Where to find a certified prescriber?

- For a complete list, please go to medicalmarijuana.pa.gov and search under “Find a physician” tab.
- Please note, this list is changing constantly as more providers are added on a regular basis.
- If your primary care provider (PCP) is certified, you should go to your PCP.

Please note – The approved physician providing the certification may require cash payment for the office visit; it is important to confirm the cost of the visit and method of payment when scheduling the appointment. Costs may vary and may be \$200-250.