

A PATIENT'S GUIDE TO MEDICAL CANNABIS

A North Dakota Reference



What is cannabis?

Cannabis is a plant that consists of hundreds of components. The two most well-known are known as cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).



1 MEDICALLY LEGAL CANNABIS

Voters approved to legalize cannabis for medical purposes in 2016.² The first dispensary opened in 2019.²

2 NOT A PRESCRIPTION

A doctor is not legally allowed to "write a prescription" for medical cannabis.³ Instead medical providers may give patients written certifications recommending medical cannabis for treatment of a debilitating condition.³



3 QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

There are over 30 conditions which are approved by the state of North Dakota that are considered to be a "debilitating medical condition" in which medical cannabis may be used.³ See NDCC Section 19-24.1-01 (15) for details and a list of qualifying conditions.

4 BONA FIDE PROVIDER - PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

All patients must have a bona fide provider-patient relationship which means that the relationship cannot solely be based on getting a written certification for cannabis.³ It also means that the patient-provider relationship must have reasonable expectations that monitoring and future appointments will continue to occur.³

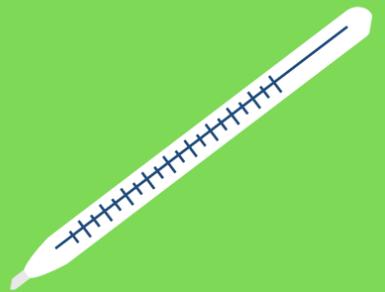


5 APPLICATION

All patients seeking to use medical cannabis need to apply for a registry identification card with NDDoH.³

6 APPROVED

Once a patient is approved, he or she will be provided a medical cannabis registry identification card.³ The patient is then able to take registry ID card with the written certification to one of eight state run dispensaries.³



7 DISPENSARY

Dispensary staff will educate the patient on what the recommended cannabis product that might work best for the debilitating medical condition.³

8 USING CANNABIS

Patients are able to purchase a maximum of 30 days supply in no more than 2.5 ounces of dried leaves and flowers and up to 4000 mg THC in other forms, such as edibles or topical ointment.³ Cancer patients may be able to obtain more than 6 ounces of dried leaves and flowers.³



By: Cameron Howe, MCST 604, Spring 2020

References

- 1 Federation of State Medical Boards. Model Guidelines for the Recommendation of Marijuana in Patient Care. April 2016. Retrieved from: <https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/model-guidelines-for-the-recommendation-of-marijuana-in-patient-care.pdf>
- 2 Fargo ND. Medical marijuana makes its North Dakota debut in Fargo. MPR News. <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/03/01/medical-marijuana-first-debut-in-north-dakota>. Published March 1, 2019. Accessed March 10, 2020.
- 3 Program Informational Guidelines Health Care Provider Overview. North Dakota Health. http://www.ndhealth.gov/mm/PDF/Program_Informational_Guides/Health_Care_Provider_Overview.pdf?v=1. Published April 29, 2019. Accessed March 10, 2020