

PMC Medical Group, LLC

Introduction to the Therapeutic Cannabis Program

This information will provide you with introductory information about qualifying criteria for Medical Marijuana /Therapeutic Cannabis and the Certification process.

Who is a Certifying Provider?

Some providers at PMC Medical Group participate in the Certification Process with the State of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; some providers do not. At this time **only** MD's, DO's, APRN's and CRNA's with a dual APRN status are eligible to certify patients for the Medical Marijuana program. You may need to see a different provider than the person you normally see if that provider does not have the above qualifications or does not participate.

The State of NH requires that a patient has an established provider/patient relationship of greater than three months with a certifying provider prior to initiation of the Certification process.

Certification means that a provider verifies for the State that a patient has a qualifying medical condition.

What are the Qualifying Medical Conditions for treatment with Therapeutic Cannabis?

The State of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Department has established a list of **Qualifying Medical Conditions**. Refer to RSA 126-X:1, IX(a). A Qualifying Medical Condition means the "presence of." You are required to have a medical condition listed in BOTH section (1) and section (2) below.

(1.) Cancer, glaucoma, positive status for **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)**, **acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)** , hepatitis C (currently receiving antiviral treatment), **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)** , muscular dystrophy, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, chronic pancreatitis, spinal cord injury or disease, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, lupus, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, or one or more injuries that significantly interferes with daily activities as documented by the patient's provider

AND

(2.) A severely debilitating or terminal medical condition or its treatment that has produced at least one of the following: elevated intraocular pressure, cachexia, chemotherapy-induced anorexia, wasting syndrome, agitation of Alzheimer's disease, severe pain that has not responded to previously prescribed medication or surgical measures or for which other treatment options produced serious side effects, constant or severe nausea, moderate to severe vomiting, seizures or severe, persistent muscle spasms.

Will my insurance cover Medical Marijuana and the Certification Process?

Unfortunately, the answer at this time is no. Medical insurance companies currently are not participating in the program. Payment is due upon arrival for appointments and must be paid by either cash or debit/credit card. Personal checks are not accepted

What are the fees for the Certification Process?

The initial consult fee is **\$225.00**. Follow up visit are expected to occur at approximately 3-6 month intervals at provider discretion and the fee per visit is **\$125.00**.

There is a **\$50.00 application fee** which is sent by the patient to the State of NH. This can be a personal check.

How does the Certification process work?

The patient must have an established patient/provider relationship for medical care of at least three months. During this time various therapies may be trialed, as well as necessary opioid use reduction.

After that time, if the patient has a “Qualifying Medical Condition,” the provider may complete the ‘Written Certification for the Therapeutic Use of Cannabis.’ This Certification form is then sent by the patient along with their Application to the State of NH. The State of NH will then review the Application and Certification. The State of NH will notify the patient of approval or denial within 20 days of receiving the application. It may take longer to receive the Registry Identification Card, however.

How do I get a Prescription for Medical Marijuana?

Medical Marijuana is only prescribed by providers at one of the State Dispensaries. (Our providers cannot ‘prescribe’ medical marijuana; they can only ‘certify.’)

After Certification and Approval, patients will choose one of the four dispensaries in the State of NH which will be located in Dover, Merrimack, Plymouth, and Lebanon. The dispensaries provide medical professionals who will consult with patients and prescribe the medications based on medical condition.

The medications come in several formulations including: capsules, tinctures, topical lotions and balms, lozenges, chewable, sub-lingual tablets, trans dermal patches, edible baked goods and infused beverages as well as vaporizer pens. Smoking the medication is never advised.

How will the Medication affect me?

Many patients ask, “will this make me feel high or not in control?” Providers at the dispensaries will help you to find a good comfort level. Marijuana available for medical use also is available in a wide variety of strains. Some of which are “bred” to have lower concentrations of **THC** (the chemical that causes the psychoactive affect) and higher concentrations of other chemicals which are reported to help in certain conditions, such as: **CBD** which helps with muscle spasms and Alzheimer's disease, **CBC** which helps to relieve pain, and reduce inflammation, **THCV** which helps with seizures.

Does cannabis help with pain? Studies have shown that patient's using medical cannabis have reported pain relief. However, as with all emerging treatments there is some controversy surrounding these claims. There is currently more research being conducted.

Is it safe to drive while under the influence of Cannabis?

Under RSA 126-X:3, **NO person shall be exempt** from arrest or prosecution for being under the influence of medical cannabis while operating a motor vehicle, commercial vehicle, boat, vessel, or any other vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power.

Will I become dependent on Medical Cannabis?

As with all controlled substances, dependence is possible. It is important to take the medication only as prescribed and consult with your provider if any questions or concerns arise. Our providers will be seeing you regularly to monitor your response to therapy and to monitor you for any unwanted side effects.

I think I'm ready, what do I do now?

If you are ready to schedule a consultation to determine if you qualify for this therapy please do not hesitate to contact our **Clinical Coordinator, Pam at 603-692-3166, extension 139**. Remember to mention that you have read this letter. Thank you for your interest.