

Medical Marijuana

What is Medical Marijuana? Marijuana that is used to treat disease or relieve symptoms. Made from dried leaves and buds of the cannabis sativa plant, it can be smoked, inhaled, ingested, or taken as a pill or oil. It was legalized in Pennsylvania April 17, 2016.

SIX FORMS AVAILABLE FOR PATIENT CONSUMPTION *

1. **Pills:** capsules containing oil are swallowed and digested
2. **Extracts** (concentrates inhaled or vaporized):
 - a. **Shatter:** smooth, solid and transparent extracts typically higher in THC (tetrahydrocannabinol)
 - b. **Wax:** opaque, soft extracts, typically lower in THC,
 - c. **Oil:** sticky liquid extract, varying THC levels,
 - d. **Budder:** creamy butter-like extracts that are typically higher in THC,
 - e. **Resin:** dark, gooey, extracts typically higher in THC
3. **Topicals:** used to treat localized pain, non psychoactive, come in gels, creams and ointments applied to the skin
4. **Liquids/Tinctures:** typically consumed by placing a drops under the tongue or spraying into mouth
5. **Patches:** applied to a venous area of the body allowing absorption into the bloodstream
6. **Flowers:** also known as “dry leaf”, consumed through vaporization

***All provide different benefits that are more suitable for treating different conditions.**

What is THC? THC is the active chemical in cannabis. It stimulates cells in the brain to release dopamine, creating an euphoria. It also interferes with how information is processed in the hippocampus, part of the brain that is responsible for new memories. THC can induce hallucinations, change thinking and cause delusions. These effects can last two hours and kick in 10-30 minutes after ingestion. THC is 1 of 113 cannabinoids identified in cannabis.

What is Cannabis? A plant used to produce hemp fiber, better known as marijuana, which is smoked or consumed, generally illegally; considered a psychoactive (mind-altering) drug.

What is CBD or Cannabidiol? A naturally occurring compound found in the flower of the cannabis plant that is being tested for therapeutic uses in such things as creams, lotions, oils, etc.

BENEFITS OF MARIJUANA:

Alzheimer's disease: may slow the progression of the disease

Anxiety: some strains help reduce anxiety

Cancer: cannabidiol is known to turn off the gene cancer cells use to spread

Nausea: treatment of drug or chemo-induced

MS (Multiple Sclerosis): decreased pain

Epilepsy: can stop or control seizures

Arthritis: alleviates pain and inflammation

Glaucoma: reduces pain/pressure and risk of vision loss

Lung Health: increases lung capacity

Parkinson's disease: used to treat/ease tremors and improve fine motor skills

Process for obtaining Medical Marijuana

- Register online with the Pennsylvania Patient and Caregiver Registry (<https://padohmmp.custhelp.com/>). Be sure to have your PA drivers license or PA state-issued ID card with your current address handy.
- See a physician registered with the Department of Health as a Medical Marijuana Approved Practitioner to be diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition.
- Pay for the application/ID card which will arrive in 7-10 days. (Fee is \$50 as of August 2019)
- Once you are approved and have your card, visit a state-licensed dispensary* to purchase medical marijuana.

* Only the patient and card-carrying caregivers (up to two per patient) may enter dispensaries. To become a designated caregiver, visit <https://www.pa.gov/guides/pennsylvania-medical-marijuana-program/#BecomeaMedicalMarijuanaCaregiver>.

For further training on this or other topics please call Milestone HCQU Northwest at 814-728-9400.