



An Introduction to Medical Cannabis in New York



VIREO
H E A L T H
O F N E W Y O R K

VIREO HEALTH

1-844-4-VIREO • WWW.VIREOHEALTHNY.COM



The Facts

Medical cannabis was approved for use by qualifying New York patients starting on January 1, 2016. Unlike many other states in which medical cannabis is legal, New York limits the ways in which medical cannabis can be used. For example, only cannabis extracts can be used, as opposed to smoking the raw plant material. Approved forms of medical cannabis include: oils for vaporization (gentle heating and inhaling), tinctures and solutions for consumption, and capsules/pills.

Who Is Able to Use Medical Cannabis?

By law, only certain conditions currently qualify for treatment with medical cannabis in New York:

1. **In the setting of cancer:**
 - a. Severe or chronic pain
 - b. Nausea or severe vomiting
 - c. Cachexia or severe wasting
2. **Seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy**
3. **Terminal illness, with a probable life expectancy of one year, with associated:**
 - a. Severe or chronic pain
 - b. Nausea or severe vomiting
 - c. Cachexia or severe wasting
4. **Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and/or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)**
5. **Glaucoma**
6. **Severe muscle spasms, such as those associated with multiple sclerosis (MS)**
7. **Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)**
8. **Crohn's disease**
9. **Tourette's syndrome**

How Can You Register?

For persons with a qualifying medical condition, the first step is to see your New York doctor or licensed health-care provider to receive certification, then submit the certification to the MN Department of Health. The Commissioner of Health will then enroll the candidate in the registry and provide verification to the patient. Persons issued the registry verification paperwork can then present to one of eight dispensaries in Minnesota, that will be able to begin distributing medications beginning July 2015.

Is There a Fee?

Registrants will contribute an annual fee to participate in the program, which is reduced for patients on Social Security Disability.

Who Can Pick Up the Medicine?

Registered patients, parents, or designated caregivers can retrieve and administer the medication. In the case of incapacitated patients or children, the Commissioner of Health can approve and register a designated caregiver if the patient's health care provider certifies that this is required.

Be Safe & Sensible.

When using any sort of medicine that could have effects on your mental clarity, it is best to take great caution before driving or performing other complex tasks that could be dangerous.

"Start Low and Go Slow" when it comes to how much medicine you take, and see how the medicine affects you. Especially at first, dose your medications in a safe place with responsible adults present. Talk to your doctor and your patient care center pharmacist about questions.

When in doubt — ASK.