

# MEDICAL MARIJUANA

## PATIENT EDUCATION GUIDE



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## MARIJUANA CAREGIVER PATIENT INFORMATION

A REMINDER: Cannabis is still considered a Schedule I drug according to the federal government, which carries severe penalties against it. Despite the Attorney General stating that they would leave alone states that have marijuana laws in place that are being followed, it is still on the books as a drug with no medicinal benefits. As more and more states adopt it, eventually it will become legalized federally.

- **Legality.** Know the laws of the state regarding how much a patient can grow or possess and under what conditions/diagnoses medicinal cannabis may be recommended.
- **Storage.** Dark glass or metal tins are preferred over plastic. Use an opaque container or store in a dark area. Freeze for long-term storage.
- **Inhaling cannabis:**
  - 0 Use a pipe rather than a cigarette to be more efficient.
  - 1 Clean the pipe daily because the tar will build up after each use. Glass pipes are easy to clean. Purple Power is a biodegradable cleaner that is effective and can be found in automotive supply stores.
  - 2 Do not hold your breath for more than 3 seconds after inhaling. Holding it for longer periods of time will only allow more smoke to be absorbed into the pulmonary tissue.
  - 3 Never use cannabis with mold on it. If you are in doubt, it can be baked at 350°F for 15 minutes. This will kill any aspergillus, which can be dangerous, especially to patients with a compromised immune system.
  - 4 Encourage the use of a vaporizer to eliminate any potential harm from smoking.
  - 5 Always begin with one inhalation when using a new supply and wait several minutes to determine if you need more.
- **Taking Cannabis sublingually.** Start with a few drops, wait 10 minutes, and take more only if needed. Store in dark glass container.
- **Using edibles.** Keep them clearly marked and out of reach of children or others who could ingest the food without realizing it is medication.

How do I find a Marijuana Caregiver or a Marijuana Dispensary?

Finding a marijuana caregiver can be easy, but the challenging part is finding one that understands your condition, is available when necessary, and is familiar with the laws concerning caregivers, possession of medical marijuana, and how to provide the correct