Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

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Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

Cannabis

– For thousands of years, Cannabis has been used medically, spiritually, and recreationally throughout the world.

– Two main components which have a variety of medicinal effects:
  • THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the primary ingredient in marijuana responsible for the high.
  • CBD or cannabidiol, does not cause a high.

Illinois Department of Public Health
Medical Cannabis Registration Program
Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

Medical cannabis may be smoked, vaporized, ingested through edibles such as, tinctures, tonics, tea and soda, or applied topically using oils and lotions.

Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

In August 2013, Illinois became the 20th state to authorize a program for the cultivation and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes.

- Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act (PA 98-0122)
- Four-year, pilot program to provide access to medical cannabis for qualifying patients
- Effective on January 1, 2014
Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

What the Illinois program is not:

• Does not allow for recreational use of marijuana

• Does not allow patients/caregivers to grow their own supply of medical cannabis
Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

Multiple state agencies involved to ensure success of program:

– Department of Public Health
– Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
– Department of Agriculture
– Illinois State Police
– Office of the Secretary of State

Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

• Public Health – establish a registration program for qualifying patients and develop regulations for medical edibles
• Agriculture – oversee regulation and licensure of up to 22 cannabis cultivation centers
• Financial and Professional Regulation – oversee regulation and licensure of up to 60 medical cannabis dispensaries
Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

General requirements:

- Registered qualifying patients are limited to purchasing 2.5 ounces of medical cannabis every 14 days
- Act specifies places where medical cannabis cannot be possessed or used
- Smoking of medical cannabis is prohibited where smoking is banned under the Smoke-free Illinois Act

Medical Cannabis Registry Program

Eligibility Categories:

- Adults over age 18
- Children under 18 years of age
- Veterans receiving care at a federal Veteran’s Administration facility
Medical Cannabis Registry Program

Debilitating Medical Conditions (39)

Seizure disorders (e.g., Epilepsy), cancer, glaucoma, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), hepatitis C, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Crohn’s disease, agitation of Alzheimer’s disease, cachexia/wasting syndrome, muscular dystrophy, severe fibromyalgia, spinal cord disease (including but not limited to arachnoiditis), Tarlov cysts, hydromyelia syringomyelia, Rheumatoid arthritis, fibrous dysplasia, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury and post concussion syndrome, Multiple Sclerosis, Arnold-Chiari malformation and Syringomelia, Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA), Parkinson’s Disease, Tourette Syndrome, Myoclonus, Dystonia, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, RSD (Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type I), Causalgia, CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Type II), Neurofibromatosis, Chronic inflammatory Demyelinating Polynueropathy, Sjogren’s Syndrome, Lupus, Interstitial Cystitis, Myasthenia Gravis, Hydrocephalus, nail-patella syndrome or residual limb pain; and the treatment of these conditions.

Medical Cannabis Registry Program

Designated Caregivers

Qualifying Patients may select a caregiver to assist with the use of medical cannabis. Designated caregivers:

• Can only assist one patient
• Must be 21 years or older
• Must undergo a fingerprint background check
• Caregiver is NOT required
Medical Cannabis Registry Program

Program requires physicians to be the gatekeeper for access to medical cannabis by qualifying patients.

- Doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987 to practice medicine
- Current controlled substances license under Article II of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act.

Medical Cannabis Registry Program

Physicians

- Attest the qualifying patient will obtain benefit from the use of medical cannabis
- Provide care for the patient’s qualifying medical condition (bona-fide relationship)
- Comply with all generally accepted standards of practice
- Maintain records for all patients for whom they recommend medical cannabis
Medical Cannabis Registry Program

Adding new debilitating conditions

• Administrative rules call for 2 open petition periods annually
• Petitions are reviewed by a 16 member Medical Cannabis Advisory Board
• Recommendation to the Director of Public Health
• Department commences rulemaking

Medical Cannabis Registry Program

Where are we today?

• More than 24,000 persons starting an application
• 3,700 completed applications
• 3,000 approved for registration cards
• 12 applications, persons under 18
Medical Cannabis Registry Program

- Compassion for patients
- Communication and listening
- Education for caregivers and physicians
- Continuous quality improvement

Contact Information

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