

Do You Know the Truth?

Ohio Law and Medical Marijuana



The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program, created by House Bill 523, was passed in 2016, making Ohio the 25th state to legalize medical marijuana. Since then, certified physicians have recommended marijuana plant material, edibles, patches, oils, and tinctures for qualifying patients. But because marijuana is illegal at the federal level and can be dangerous for those who use it, Ohio has established rigorous rules for the who, what, when, and how of recommending and using marijuana.

Who Can Prescribe in Ohio?

No one can prescribe marijuana since it is unlawful; however, under Ohio law, approved physicians can recommend it, providing they are a qualified physician, certified by the State Medical Board of Ohio; recommend its use only for qualifying conditions; and have a bona fide relationship with the patient (who must be an Ohio resident 18 years of age or older).

Only physicians with a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) and a Certificate to Recommend (CTR) may recommend marijuana for their patients. Recommending physicians also are required to inform their patients about the risks and benefits of marijuana based on their patients' qualifying conditions and medical history.

What conditions can be treated with medical marijuana?

Ohio law allows for the use of physician-recommended marijuana for the treatment of these qualifying medical conditions:

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| 1. AIDS | 9. Fibromyalgia | 16. Positive Status For HIV |
| 2. Alzheimer's Disease | 10. Glaucoma | 17. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder |
| 3. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis | 11. Hepatitis C | 18. Sickle Cell Anemia |
| 4. Cachexia | 12. Inflammatory Bowel Disease | 19. Spinal cord disease or injury |
| 5. Cancer | 13. Multiple Sclerosis | 20. Tourette Syndrome |
| 6. Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy | 14. Pain that is either chronic and severe or intractable | 21. Traumatic Brain Injury |
| 7. Crohn's Disease | 15. Parkinson's Disease | 22. Ulcerative Colitis |
| 8. Epilepsy or another seizure disorder | | |

Medical Marijuana: Patient's and Caregiver's Responsibilities

- Visit an MD or DO with CTR for a consultation.
- Register with Ohio's Patient & Caregiver Registry and carry the state-issued medical marijuana ID card.
- Purchase medical marijuana in an allowable form from a qualified Ohio dispensary, carry it in its original container, and take caution not to misuse or abuse it.
- Seek immediate medical attention for serious or life-threatening issues, and report adverse reactions to: 1-833-4OH-MMCP.
- Visit medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov for important information, including program updates and recalls.

Where to Obtain Medical Marijuana

The distribution of medical marijuana in the state is heavily regulated and dispensaries must be licensed under the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Ohio has a list of provisional licenses in Ohio, which can be found by visiting: medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov.

Medical Marijuana: What is Legal vs. Illegal?

Medical marijuana is essentially the same as street marijuana. It still contains the psychoactive ingredient THC, which is known to cause cognitive impairment.¹ Ohio's law does allow patients with qualifying conditions to use marijuana in treating those conditions. However, it also maintains many restrictions on marijuana use at work, at home, while operating a vehicle, and while on certain properties:

While at WORK:

Employers are not required to accommodate employee use of medical marijuana.² Employers can still enforce drug-free workplace laws and drug-test employees.

While at HOME:

Home growing is prohibited.

While operating a motorized VEHICLE:

Operating a vehicle, streetcar, trackless trolley, watercraft, or aircraft under the influence of medical marijuana is unlawful and dangerous.

While on PROPERTY:

Medical marijuana is not allowed on federal property, in federal buildings, or other public or private places where prohibited. Schools may continue prohibiting marijuana on their campuses to comply with federal laws.

About This Campaign

Because much of the public conversation surrounding marijuana has been based on anecdotes rather than science, Prevention Action Alliance and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services created this campaign to help people better understand the facts about marijuana and its effects.

If you found this article helpful, we encourage you to share it with others. You can also find other fact sheets about marijuana at: preventionactionalliance.org/marijuana

If you have concerns about your own use of marijuana or a loved one's, and wish to seek help, go to: findtreatment.samhsa.gov/

Contact Us

For more information on Ohio's Medical Marijuana Law, visit medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/.

For more information on Marijuana please contact us at:
Prevention Action Alliance
(614) 540-9985
preventionactionalliance.org

About Us

Prevention
Action Alliance



Prevention Action Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Columbus, Ohio. We're dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. Learn more at preventionactionalliance.org.

The mission of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is to provide statewide leadership on the topics of mental health and addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery. Learn more about OhioMHAS at mha.ohio.gov.

1. drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana

2. bwc.ohio.gov/downloads/blankpdf/MedMarijuanaImpact.pdf