



## UMHS Patient Guide for the Use of Medical Marijuana

Marijuana is not a normal treatment for any medical condition. Smoking is bad for your health. Most doctors feel that the risks of marijuana outweigh the benefits. Talk with your doctor about other ways to treat your symptoms.

### ***What are the risks of smoking marijuana?***

Short-term risks include:

- Anxiety and panic
- Trouble with attention, memory, and coordination
- Increased risk of car crashes (it is against the law to operate a vehicle under the influence of marijuana)
- Increased risk of psychiatric symptoms if you have a personal or family history of mental illness

Long-term risks include:

- Increased risk of bronchitis, lung scarring and emphysema
- Dependence and withdrawal
- Increased risk of problems in brain function
- Decreased sperm count
- Increased risk of birth problems

### ***What is the Michigan Medical Marijuana Law?***

Michigan voters passed the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act (MMMA), which is effective April 4, 2009. This law allows patients to legally use the drug if they have certain medical conditions that may benefit from marijuana.

The MMMA states that a doctor must complete a form confirming that a patient has a qualifying medical condition and that he/she agrees that medical marijuana may help with the symptoms or effects of the patient's condition. The doctor does NOT write a prescription for marijuana.

Patients must submit the signed doctor certification form to the Michigan Department of Community Health, along with the application. Patients must pay a first-time and yearly application fee of \$100. The fee is reduced to \$25 if the patient is enrolled in Medicaid or receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Patients or their designated caregiver who obtain a certification card can:

- carry up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana. Patients are protected from prosecution in the State of Michigan for the use of medical marijuana, but NOT from Federal law.
- grow up to 12 marijuana plants in a locked facility for medical use.

The law does not allow:

- having or using marijuana in a school bus, or on the grounds of primary or secondary schools.
- smoking marijuana on any form of public transportation or in any public place.
- operating, navigating, or being in physical control of any motor vehicle, aircraft, or motorboat while under the influence.

For more details on the MMMA, go to <http://www.michigan.gov/mmp>.