

SPEAKING TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT MEDICAL CANNABIS



WHY?

SAFETY

Cannabis can have potential drug interactions (e.g. prescription & non-prescription drugs, supplements, alcohol). It may also have an impact on anesthesia and post-surgical care.

BETTER CARE

Having open conversations with your healthcare provider can lead to better and more personalized care. Healthcare providers can better serve you if they know all aspects of your health history and practices.

EDUCATION

Healthcare providers can help you monitor the effects of medical cannabis on your qualifying condition and overall health and well-being. They may also be able to tell you what drug interactions may cause adverse effects.

WHAT?

CONSUMPTION

Tell your provider you consume cannabis for any purpose (medical or non-medical) and what methods you use for consuming (e.g. smoking, vaporizing, ingestion, sublingual).

SYMPTOMS

Discuss what symptoms or condition you are using medical cannabis to treat or alleviate. It is important to discuss any mental health-related symptoms such as anxiety, depression, or insomnia.

REDUCING/REPLACING

Openly discuss if you are using cannabis to reduce or replace prescription drugs, opioids, alcohol, tobacco, or other substances. Also, discuss if you are interested in stopping or reducing your cannabis use.

REGISTERED WEST VIRGINIA PHYSICIANS

In order for a medical provider to recommend medical cannabis in the State of West Virginia, physicians must complete a required training about medical cannabis and general information about the medical cannabis program.

You can find a list of registered physicians on the West Virginia Office of Medical Cannabis website, omc.wv.gov, under the [Schedule an Appointment](#) page.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR PROVIDER ABOUT MEDICAL CANNABIS



How could medical cannabis interact with my current medications?



What are the potential side effects or risks of using medical cannabis?



Is medical cannabis a good option for me based on my medical history and current condition?



How will I determine the right dose of medical cannabis for my needs?



Does medical insurance cover the cost of medical cannabis?

QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

- Cancer
- HIV/AIDS
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Parkinson's disease
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Epilepsy
- Neuropathies
- Huntington's disease
- Crohn's disease
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Intractable seizures
- Sickle cell anemia
- Severe chronic or intractable pain
- Damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord
- with neurological indication of intractable spasticity
- Terminal illness (life expectancy of one year or less)

Ibrahim, M. (2024). Should I talk to my doctor about cannabis?. The University of Arizona Health Sciences. <https://healthsciences.arizona.edu/news/blog/Should-I-talk-to-my-doctor-about-cannabis>

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Tips on talking to your doctor about medical cannabis. Americans for Safe Access. (n.d.). https://www.safeaccessnow.org/talking_to_your_doctor_about_medical_marijuana