

NDDoH implements legislative changes to the medical marijuana program

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has implemented the legislative changes passed by the 66th Legislative Assembly that impact the medical marijuana program. Due to the emergency clause included in the medical marijuana-related bills, all legislative changes were effective immediately once Governor Burgum signed the bills on April 23.

“We are excited to announce that we have implemented a number of significant changes to the medical marijuana program that are beneficial for qualifying patients. We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to legislators for their hard work and thoughtful decision-making,” stated Jason Wahl, director of the Division of Medical Marijuana. “These changes will increase qualifying patients’ access to marijuana products, alleviate a concern identified by the medical community, and improve the operations of the Division of Medical Marijuana.”

Summary of changes:

- Removal of the requirement for a health care provider to state that, in their professional opinion, the patient is likely to receive a therapeutic or palliative benefit from the medical use of marijuana. (*House Bills 1283 and 1417*)
- A qualifying patient with the debilitating medical condition of cancer may be authorized by their health care provider to purchase up to six ounces of dried leaves or flowers in a 30-day period. (*House Bill 1417*)
- In lieu of a written certification, a veteran receiving treatment from a federal VA entity may submit a copy of their medical records. (*House Bill 1283*)
- Physician assistants have been added to the definition of health care provider, allowing a physician assistant to complete a written certification. (*House Bill 1283*)
- Twelve conditions were added to the list of debilitating medical conditions. (*House Bill 1519*)
- Patients over the age of 19 are authorized to purchase up to 2.5 ounces of dried leaves or flowers in a 30-day period without a special authorization from their health care provider. (*House Bill 1417*)
- A manufacturing facility may grow more than 1,000 plants to sufficiently meet the demands of qualifying patients. (*Senate Bill 2210*)

“Applications for qualifying patients and designated caregivers, as well as the written certification form, have been updated to reflect the legislative changes,” stated Wahl.

By May 3, a detailed list of all legislative changes will be placed on the Division of Medical Marijuana's website at www.ndhealth.gov/MM/. Also, application instructions, guides, and other documents on the Division of Medical Marijuana website will be updated to reflect the legislative changes.

For questions, please contact the Division of Medical Marijuana at 701-328-1311.

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