



Medicinal Cannabis Control Commission

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Medicinal Cannabis Qualifying Medical Conditions

Only patients who are eligible under the White Earth Band of Ojibwe Medicinal Cannabis Code and have been certified with one of the qualifying conditions are eligible to receive medical cannabis on White Earth Reservation.

Qualifying Conditions

- Alzheimer's disease
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Autism spectrum disorder (must meet DSM-5)
- Cancer*
- Chronic motor or vocal tic disorder
- Chronic pain
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS
- Inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn's disease
- Intractable pain (*See definition below*)
- Irritable bowel syndrome (effective Aug. 1, 2023)
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder (effective Aug. 1, 2023)
- Obstructive sleep apnea (*See definition below*)
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Seizures, including those characteristics of epilepsy
- Severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristics of multiple sclerosis (MS)
- Sickle cell disease
- Terminal illness, with a probable life expectancy of less than one year*
- Tourette syndrome

*If your illness or its treatment produces one or more of the following: severe or chronic pain; nausea or severe vomiting; or cachexia or severe wasting.

Definition of Intractable Pain

The definition of Intractable Pain used for administering the program was developed from a statutory definition of intractable pain in the 2014 Minnesota Statutes, [152.125 Intractable Pain](#).

“When a health care practitioner certifies a patient for intractable pain, they are certifying the patient meets this definition, "pain whose cause cannot be removed and, according to generally accepted medical practice, the full range of pain management modalities appropriate for this patient has been used without adequate result or with intolerable side effects."

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and Medical Cannabis

- OSA is a serious condition. It interrupts sleep and can make you feel sleepy during the day. But it can have other harmful effects, too. Without effective treatment, OSA can lead to other diseases including heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and premature death.
- Before trying medical cannabis products for OSA, try other OSA treatments known to be effective. CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) is effective in treating OSA. If you tried CPAP in the past and quit because you couldn't tolerate it, ask your healthcare provider about improvements to CPAP in recent years that have made it easier to use. CPAP is not the only therapy known to be effective for treating OSA. Talk to your healthcare provider about these other options.
- Very little research has been done on which medical cannabis products – if any – are effective for treating OSA. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine in April 2018 issued a position statement opposing the use of cannabis for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea: “... medical cannabis and/or its synthetic extracts should not be used for the treatment of OSA due to unreliable delivery methods and insufficient evidence of effectiveness, tolerability, and safety.”
- If you do decide to purchase medical cannabis as an experiment in treating your OSA, make sure to work with your healthcare provider to assess how effective medical cannabis is for

treating your OSA. This might require another sleep test. If the medical cannabis products you tried did not help your OSA enough, change to therapies other than medical cannabis.

- A common side effect of medical cannabis is drowsiness. This is an important risk for patients who already feel drowsy during the day due to OSA. Take medical cannabis only before going to bed to reduce the risk of drowsiness as a side effect.