



Did You Know?

May 2015

As New York State's Medical Marijuana Program picks up speed, we would like to clear up the many misconceptions that are out there about New York's proposed program.

What many don't realize is that marijuana used to treat medical conditions and marijuana used for recreational purposes differ quite a bit. Medical marijuana is grown in specific ways to treat specific ailments. **Using street marijuana to treat a specific medical condition would be inappropriate and ineffective.**

Below are some other important points about New York State's Medical Marijuana Program.

New York State's Medical Marijuana Program:

- Marijuana will only be available in a non-smokeable form.
- Approved to treat only certain severe conditions:
 - Cancer
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS)
 - Parkinson's disease
 - Multiple sclerosis
 - Damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord
 - Epilepsy
 - Inflammatory bowel disease
 - Neuropathies
 - Huntington's disease
- The above conditions are included due to the fact that there are clinical associations with/or complication of the condition resulting in wasting syndrome, severe or chronic pain, severe nausea, seizures, or severe or persistent muscle spasms.
- Prescribing practitioners will have to certify that their patient has (1) a serious condition and (2) patient is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefits from the use of medical marijuana for the serious condition

Although NY is moving ahead with its Medical Marijuana Program, ECCPASA believes that further studies must examine the appropriate dosages for medical marijuana as well as the appropriate route of administration for each medical condition mentioned in the Compassionate Care Act.

Sources: www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical_marijuana/

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The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc., publishes Did You Know, a regular update about alcohol & other drugs - - America's #1 public health problem. ECCPASA • 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-831-2298 • www.eccpasa.org