

IDPH Program Qualifying Debilitating Conditions (as of 11/1/2015):

- Glaucoma
- Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- Hepatitis C
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Crohn's disease
- Agitation of Alzheimer's disease
- Cachexia/wasting syndrome
- Muscular dystrophy
- Severe fibromyalgia
- Spinal cord disease (including but not limited to arachnoiditis)
- Tarlov cysts
- Hydromyelia
- Syringomyelia
- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- Fibrous dysplasia
- Spinal cord injury (damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity)
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-concussion syndrome
- Multiple sclerosis (MS)
- Arnold-Chiari malformation and Syringomyelia
- Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA)
- Parkinson's disease
- Tourette's syndrome
- Myoclonus
- Dystonia
- Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, RSD (Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type I)
- Causalgia
- CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type II)
- Neurofibromatosis
- Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy
- Sjogren's syndrome
- Lupus
- Interstitial cystitis
- Myasthenia gravis
- Hydrocephalus
- Nail-patella syndrome
- Residual limb pain
- Seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy

This list may be updated by the IDPH. Please check <http://www.illinois.gov/gov/mcpp/Pages/default.aspx> for an up-to-date list of Qualifying Debilitating Conditions.

Patient Guide to the Illinois Medical Cannabis Program





Medical Cannabis in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is running a Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017. This program is designed to provide access to medical cannabis for patients that have qualifying medical conditions.

Howard Brown Health is committed to a holistic approach to healthcare, and this may include medical cannabis. The rules and application process for obtaining a medical cannabis registration card are outlined below.

Medical cannabis refers to the use of the cannabis (marijuana) plant and its extracts to help treat diseases or improve symptoms. As with any medicine, talk to your provider about possible side effects, safety of use, and any other concerns.

In Illinois, the IDPH Medical Cannabis Pilot Program will allow people living with qualifying debilitating conditions to obtain a registration card and purchase cannabis at one of its licensed dispensaries. As part of their application, the person must get a certification form signed by a physician.

Follow these steps to request a physician certification from Howard Brown to receive medical cannabis:

1. Request a Physician Certification from Howard Brown Health

A Howard Brown physician may provide a statement of certification to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) only if you meet all of these requirements:

- You are living with one of the qualifying debilitating conditions
- You have been a Howard Brown primary care patient in care for at least six months
- Howard Brown determines that the use of medical cannabis would help you to treat your qualifying debilitating condition or symptoms caused by that condition

If you are interested in applying for the IDPH medical cannabis pilot program, you should talk with your primary care provider at a scheduled in-person visit. If you request medical cannabis and you and your provider decide that you would benefit from using medical cannabis to help



your qualifying condition, they will submit your request to the internal Howard Brown Medical Cannabis Committee. The committee meets every month to review requests for certification. The committee is made up of Howard Brown medical and behavioral health providers. The committee will consult with your health providers and medical records, and will make a decision about whether to sign off on your Physician Certification Form using evidence-based medical research and guidelines and established best practices. If the Howard Brown Medical Cannabis Committee approves your request, your completed physician certification form will be mailed to IDPH by Howard Brown. If the Committee declines your request, Howard Brown will not complete a physician certification form. Howard Brown encourages you not to submit your IDPH application fee before you are informed of the Committee decision and, if approved, have received your completed certification form.

Talk to your provider if you have more questions about medical cannabis.

Learn more about how the Medical Cannabis Committee makes these decisions by reading our “Frequently Asked Questions about Medical Cannabis” at howardbrown.org/medical-cannabis.

2. Apply to IDPH for a Registration Card

You can apply online at <https://medicalcannabispatients.illinois.gov>, or you can get application forms at mcpp.illinois.gov. Be sure to carefully read all of the language and include all additional pieces with your application, as there are many things required, including: proof of residency, identification, and age; a photograph; fingerprinting; and an application fee of \$100.00 (or \$50.00 if you receive SSI or SSDI). If you have a caregiver who you want to be involved in purchasing or dispensing your medical cannabis, there is a separate application for caregivers. Again, you are encouraged not to submit your application or fee to IDPH until you have been notified that you will be granted a physician certification.

3. Be Reviewed and Approved By the Illinois Department of Public Health

IDPH will review your entire application, including a criminal record background check (which requires fingerprinting). After reviewing your application, IDPH will decide if it will issue you a registration card.

A registration card will allow you to purchase medical marijuana from a dispensary. You will not need a prescription. A list of operating dispensaries can be found on the IDPH website - <http://www.idfpr.com/Forms/MC/ListofLicensedDispensaries.pdf>.