

Key points to know about Constitutional Amendment 2, the medical marijuana referendum that was passed in November 2018:

- Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) will oversee the program.
- Although the effective date is December 6th 2018, DHSS is not required to provide applications to patients wishing to qualify for medical marijuana until June 2019, and then will begin accepting those applications in July.
- Likewise, DHSS will not be accepting applications for dispensaries until August 2019, and then have 150 days to grant or deny permission.
- Any licensed physician in good standing to practice medicine or osteopathy under Missouri law can certify a patient has a qualifying condition.
- Patients requesting treatment with medical marijuana must submit to the DHSS a completed application and physician certification less than 30 days old stating they have a qualifying medical condition (See below).
- Physician certification is not a 'prescription' nor an affirmation declaring medical marijuana effective for the referenced condition.
- There will be limit on the amount of marijuana sold (4 oz dry product monthly) and possession (60 day supply).
- Cultivation at home is allowed, up to 6 plants (patient or caregiver).
- Qualifying conditions:
 - Cancer
 - Epilepsy
 - Glaucoma
 - Intractable migraines
 - Chronic medical condition that causes severe muscle spasms
 - Debilitating psychiatric disorders including PTSD
 - HIV or AIDS
 - Any chronic medical condition that is normally treated with a prescription medication that could lead to physical or psychological dependence
 - Any chronic or debilitating medical condition that in the judgement of a physician including hepatitis C, inflammatory bowel disease, and neuropathies

What we don't know yet:

- Will there be an age limit? Currently those under 18 are allowed to qualify if parental consent.

- Will patients using medical marijuana be banned from purchasing firearms?
- Will mid-level practitioners be able to provide certification under the current collaborative agreement in Missouri?
- Will recipients of Medicaid be able to use medical marijuana?
- Will physicians be allowed to comment on the certification whether or not the feel medical marijuana is indicated for the condition in question?
- Will employees using medical marijuana in a workplace that prohibits this be allowed to continue such treatment? How will a positive urine drug screen be handled?

The Missouri ACP Chapter will keep membership posted as additional information becomes available from DHSS and other sources.

Additional sources on this topic may be found at the following links:

- [National Institute of Health, Marijuana and Cannabinoids](#)
- [American Family Physician, Effectiveness, Adverse Effects, and Safety of Medical Marijuana, November 15, 2015.](#)
- [Annals of Intern Medicine: Effectiveness, Adverse Effects, and Safety of Medical Marijuana](#)