



WHOLISTIC RELEAF™

A Division of Wholistic Pediatrics
& Family Care

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Overview

Our goal at Wholistic ReLeaf is to empower families and patients to choose the best treatment approach for the patient's medical condition. Wholistic ReLeaf is devoted solely to the evaluation and certification of qualified patients who meet the State of Florida legal requirements for receiving medical cannabis. In addition to patients covered under the State's prior medical cannabis laws, we also treat patients who qualify under Florida's Amendment 2. The State of Florida strictly regulates low-THC and THC-containing medical cannabis. We've compiled all the details to make it easy for you.

Eligibility

Wholistic ReLeaf is committed to providing our patients the best possible care, while also complying with the ever-shifting legal landscape of medical cannabis. We will continue to update our information as the State of Florida clarifies the still ambiguous areas of law.

Based on our current understanding of the law, a legal Florida resident may be certified to use medical cannabis only if the following criteria are all met:

A Qualifying Medical Condition

The patient must have a diagnosis of at least one of the following medical conditions, or suffer from a medical condition of the same kind or class as or comparable to one of the following conditions:

- PTSD (debilitating symptoms: insomnia, mood swings, depression, anxiety, panic attack, aggression)
- Multiple sclerosis (muscle/joint/nerve pain, chronic headaches, arthritis, fatigue, numbness/tingling, muscle spasms, muscle weakness, dizziness/vertigo, bladder dysfunction, decreased

cognitive function, constipation, swallowing difficulty, chronic itchiness)

- Parkinson's disease (tremors, difficulty speaking, cognitive impairment, stiff/rigid muscles, difficulty walking, amnesia, dementia)
- Crohn's disease (chronic abdominal pain and cramping, chronic diarrhea, fatigue, weight loss, poor appetite)
- Cancer
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS (poor appetite, weight loss, fatigue, HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder causing deficits in attention, learning, concentration, attention, and focus)
- ALS/Lou Gehrig's disease
- A Terminal illness (diagnosed by a physician other than the physician issuing the cannabis certification)

Medical Conditions of the Same Kind or Class As or Comparable

To: we understand this to mean any debilitating condition a patient is suffering from that is similar to those found in the conditions listed above.

- For example, if all other eligibility criteria are satisfied, Dr. Berger believes it appropriate to consider ordering medical cannabis for a patient suffering from symptoms similar to those exhibited in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), such as debilitating anxiety, panic, depression, violent tendencies, or insomnia. Likewise, Dr. Berger would consider medical cannabis as a treatment option if a patient suffers from a similar chronic debilitating symptom commonly seen in Multiple Sclerosis patients, or has another debilitating autoimmune or inflammatory condition. Additionally, similar to how people with ALS and Parkinson's may experience

difficulty speaking and comprehending, people with autism and related disorders also commonly suffer a debilitating limited ability to communicate.

- Please contact us if a patient is suffering from other debilitating symptoms so we can further evaluate and confirm whether this would qualify the patient.

Certification by a Qualified Florida Medical Cannabis Physician

A Florida-licensed physician who successfully completed the required state-sponsored medical education course must evaluate the patient.

Risk-Benefit Determination

During the consultation, the certifying physician must determine the benefits of the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient and document this in the chart.

Additional Requirements for Certain Patients

Pediatric patients - any patient under 18-years-old must have a second physician who concurs in writing that the potential benefits of treating the patient with medical cannabis outweigh the risks for the patient. The concurring physician does not need to be certified by the State to order medical cannabis nor does this physician need to formally document a recommendation. We have a second physician on staff at Wholistic ReLeaf who can provide this documentation following a chart review. The patient does not meet personally with the second physician for this service. Additionally, the patient must have a designated caregiver who meets the

State's qualifications. The family must provide the State a certified copy of a birth certificate or a current record of registration from a Florida K-12 school and must have a parent or legal guardian who meets the requirements as set forth by the state.

Patients with a terminal medical condition - defined as a progressive disease or medical or surgical condition that causes significant functional impairment, is not considered by a treating physician to be reversible without the administration of life-sustaining procedures, and will result in death within 1 year after diagnosis if the condition runs its normal course. The ordering physician must attest that the patient has a terminal medical condition. The patient must provide Wholistic ReLeaf documentation stating the patient's terminal status, as documented by another physician who not the one issuing the medical cannabis certification. The physician who documented the terminal condition does not need to recommend the patient be treated with medical cannabis.

Pregnancy

A physician may not issue a medical cannabis certification, except for low-THC cannabis, to a patient who is pregnant.

How Our Clinic Works

Wholistic ReLeaf has streamlined the process through which qualified patients will be able to receive medical cannabis in accordance with Florida law. We request the patient/family reads through the information below and asks all questions about the process prior to scheduling an appointment.

Becoming a Wholistic ReLeaf Patient

After Wholistic ReLeaf receives all information required on our Contact Us page, the patient/family will receive an invitation to register with our patient portal. Thereafter, all future communication with our staff will take place through the patient portal. This ensures a complete, timely, and protected medical record for the patient.

Before making an appointment at our clinic, the patient/family must provide medical documentation that shows the patient has a qualifying medical condition. This documentation must be from the physician or therapist who originally diagnosed, or is currently treating, the qualifying medical condition.

Cannabis Certification Consultation

Prior to scheduling an initial appointment, all registration and consent forms must be completed through the patient portal. Once received, we will contact the patient/family to schedule an appointment.

For each certification encounter with the patient, the physician must:

- Conduct a physical examination including a full assessment of the patient's medical history;
- Diagnose the patient with at least one the qualifying medical condition;
- Determine the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient;
- Include attestation by a second physician for patients under the age of 18;
- Determine whether the patient is pregnant;
- Review the patient's controlled drug prescription history in the prescription drug monitoring program database;
- Review the medical marijuana use registry and confirm the patient does

- not have an active physician certification from another qualified physician;
- Register as the issuer of the physician certification; and
- Obtain voluntary and informed written consent.

Florida's Medical Marijuana Use Registry

Entering the patient into the Registry enables the state to issue a Medical Marijuana Use Registry ID number, which is required before the patient (or caregiver) can apply for the required ID card. The patient will be placed into the Medical Marijuana Use Registry (where a unique Patient ID number is generated) after:

1. The patient's certification consultation with one of our our physicians; and
2. All required medical documentation, such as proof of qualifying diagnosis, is in the medical chart.

Medical Marijuana Use ID Card

After being entered in the Registry the patient and/or caregiver must submit a completed application to obtain a Florida Medical Marijuana Use Registry ID card. Applications are issued through the Office of Medical Marijuana Use. Once approved an ID number and temporary ID card will be issued by email to the patient. Usually within one month, a printed ID card is sent to the patient/caregiver, but only the temporary ID card is needed to purchase the medical cannabis.

- Click here to apply for a [Application Instructions for Qualified Patients](#)
- Click here to apply for a [Application Instructions for Legal Representatives](#)

Obtaining Medical Cannabis from State-Approved Dispensaries

After receiving the temporary patient/caregiver's state ID card, the patient/family can then visit or call one of the state-approved Medical Marijuana

Treatment Centers to arrange to get products sanctioned by the State of Florida.

Wholistic ReLeaf will provide a list of the state-approved dispensaries. The ordering physician may certify a patient to receive up to a 70-day supply and provide up to 2 refills. A certification expires after 210 days. The patient or caregiver should contact Wholistic ReLeaf one (1) week prior to the recertification deadline and/or the patient's supply running out.

Follow-Up Appointments to Stay Active on the Registry

To remain active in the Medical Marijuana Use Registry, a patient must be recertified every 30 weeks (210 days). An in-office appointment with a physical exam is required as part of every recertification consultation. The follow-up appointment should take place approximately 1 week prior to their certification expiration date to ensure there is no a lapse.

Available Treatments

Types of Medical Cannabis

The State of Florida currently permits two types of medical cannabis treatments for qualified patients: Low-THC Medical Cannabis and THC-Containing Medical Cannabis.

Low-THC Medical Cannabis

The active ingredient of low-THC medical cannabis is cannabidiol (CBD). This treatment does not cause the euphoric effects typically attributed to cannabis consumption. CBD appears to be non-toxic to humans; though some mild side effects have been reported, including increased sleepiness, fatigue, diarrhea, and change in appetite.

THC-Containing Medical Cannabis

THC is the ingredient that causes the euphoric/psychoactive effects of cannabis. The doses needed to provide relief for the patient will vary, and with this, so can the euphoric effect. CBD should also be an ingredient of this treatment as it works synergistically with the THC, and also can decrease the euphoric effects of the THC. This allows for higher doses of THC to be used by lowering the side-effects of the THC.

Strains, Hybrids, and Ratios

The Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers are taking different approaches to the types of cannabis products they offer. Because patients react differently to the various THC-containing plants, some Centers differentiate their products based on whether it is derived from a sativa, indica, or hybrid plant. Some Centers indicate the individual strain of the plant and offer more than one strain of any given type (i.e., sativa). Additionally, many Centers offer combination products with various ratios of CBD to THC.

How Medical Cannabis Can Be Administered

Available Treatments in the State of Florida

- Cannabis derivatives may be available in the forms of vapor, capsules, tinctures, oils, and topical, nasal, and transdermal applications.
- Availability and product forms will be determined by each state-approved Medical Marijuana Treatment Center.

Currently Unavailable in the State of Florida

- No whole flower/bud products can be sold at the state dispensaries, though Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers are allowed to sell flower in a sealed, tamper-proof receptacle for use in a vaporizer.
- Medical cannabis cannot be smoked, and the active ingredients may not be injected into the body.

Telemedicine

Under Florida law, “telemedicine” means the practice of medicine by a licensed Florida physician or physician assistant where patient care, treatment, or services are provided through the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications. Telemedicine does not include health care services provided solely through an audio only telephone, email messages, text messages, facsimile transmission, U.S. Mail, and/or other parcel service.

Telemedicine is not permitted for the certifying consultation. A patient must be seen in the office to be certified. However, additional medical cannabis treatment management may be needed in between certification consultations. For these non-certification appointments we offer the convenience of telemedicine.

Florida telemedicine law requires visual interaction between the physician and the patient. Wholistic ReLeaf utilizes HIPAA-compliant video conferencing software similar to Skype, FaceTime, or Google Hangouts. The standard of care remains the same regardless of whether a Florida licensed physician provides health care services in-person or by telemedicine. For example, a physical examination can be performed by telemedicine if the information obtained by the medical provider allows the provider to properly assess or provide a treatment plan for the patient, or is not lessened or compromised by not laying hands on the patient.

Governing Florida Rule 64B8-9.0141, Standards for Telemedicine Practice, can be found in its entirety at [Florida Standards for Telemedicine Practice](#).

FAQs

What treatment is the patient eligible to receive?

With the enactment of Florida's Amendment 2, qualified patients with a Medical Marijuana Use Registry ID Card may be treated with a variety of low-THC (CBD) and THC- containing medical cannabis products. They are available in a variety of different forms such as vaporized, capsules, oral liquids and, transdermal creams. Currently a patient is not allowed to smoke "flower" but can vaporize flower sold in a sealed, tamper-proof receptacle.

What are cannabinoids (CBD)?

The brain and other nerve cells, as well as other organs, have natural receptors for cannabinoids. Our bodies also naturally make certain cannabinoids (endocannabinoids), which help regulate pain-sensation, memory, stress response, social behavior, mood, immune function, sleep, and appetite. Some patients may benefit more from one type of cannabis treatment, while others best respond to a combination of treatments, that vary based on ratio or time of use throughout the day. To learn more about cannabinoids, please visit:

- [Project CBD](#) - provides a good explanation of how CBD works in the body
- [Realm of Caring](#) - maintains the most current CBD research.

How does cannabis interact with other medicines?

Because cannabinoids are metabolized by the cytochrome P450 system in the liver, they could change the effects of certain seizure medications, such as valproate and clobazam. Some seizure medications, such as carbamazepine and phenytoin, may also reduce cannabinoid blood levels. If a patient is taking these drugs, the patient may require higher doses of cannabinoids, although this has not typically been observed at the doses commonly used in the research. At Wholistic ReLeaf, we will cross check all medications a patient is taking in a database of known interactions with cannabinoids.

What does the physician authorize for the qualified patient?

After verifying a patient has a qualifying medical condition to receive medical cannabis (as determined by the State of Florida), and having determined the benefits outweigh the risks, the physician provides certification that a patient is qualified. With this, a patient (and caregiver if needed) can obtain a Medical Marijuana Use Registry ID card and obtain product from a state-approved Medical Marijuana Treatment Center.

How does the patient get the medical cannabis?

Once all legal requirements have been met, the patient will receive a state-issued Medical Marijuana Use Registry ID card, at which time they may get their

medical cannabis from a Florida-sanctioned Medical Marijuana Treatment Center. The Centers will have access to the patient's certification to verify what they are allowed to distribute.

What about the Medical Cannabis Use Registry ID cards?

A valid ID card is required to purchase medical cannabis. Once a Medical Marijuana Use Registry ID number is provided to the patient, the ID card application may be submitted. The appropriate applications are found here:

- For patients - [Application Instructions for Qualified Patients](#)
- For caregivers - [Application Instructions for Legal Representatives](#)

What are physicians' requirements for ordering medical cannabis?

Only Florida-licensed physicians who have successfully completed a 2-hour medical education course on medical cannabis and passed the examination may certify qualified patients to receive medical cannabis. This is explained in more detail on the Florida Department of Health's website.

Do Wholistic ReLeaf doctors evaluate patients for purposes of determining whether the patient has a qualifying medical condition?

At this time, Wholistic ReLeaf does not perform evaluations to determine if an individual has a qualifying medical condition to receive medical cannabis in the State of Florida. To make an initial appointment with Wholistic ReLeaf, a patient must attest to having a valid pre-existing medical condition. A consultation note or professional letter stating the qualifying medical condition documented by the patient's healthcare, therapist, or mental health provider must be provided to Wholistic ReLeaf prior to the qualified patient being certified to receive medical cannabis. Wholistic ReLeaf will evaluate the patient's medical history to determine if the risks of ordering medical cannabis are reasonable in light of the potential benefit for the individual patient. Current patients of Wholistic Pediatrics and Family Care may have sufficient documentation in their medical record to verify a qualifying medical condition. This will be determined on a case-

by-case basis by our medical team.

Does Wholistic ReLeaf provide after-hours/emergency care for its patients?

Wholistic ReLeaf does not provide after-hours/emergency care or any evaluation or treatment beyond the scope of treatment detailed above. For any additional medical care/advice, the patient's primary care physician or the treating specialist (e.g., neurologist or oncologist) should be contacted. Full medical care, including check-ups, after hours and urgent calls, nutritional evaluations, and biomedical treatments are available at WPFC. Any person interested in utilizing the services of WPFC must contact that clinic directly to acquire additional information.

Will a physician at Wholistic ReLeaf serve as a second “confirming” physician?

Yes, for patients under 18 years old, a second physician must concur with the determination that the patient is qualified for the Compassionate Use Registry. In addition to serving as an ordering physician for entering qualified patients into the Compassionate Use Registry, Wholistic ReLeaf also conducts evaluations as the “second physician” to fulfill this pediatric requirement under Florida law if there is another doctor who will be doing the actual ordering. To evaluate a patient for the purpose of confirming a qualifying medical condition, the patient must first present a consultation note or letter from the physician who made the diagnosis or is providing current treatment for that diagnosis.

Assuming the patient meets all qualification criteria, only one chart-review appointment is required for a Wholistic ReLeaf physician to provide documentation as the “confirming physician.” Wholistic ReLeaf physicians will not provide evaluations to make an original diagnosis, unless the patient is an established patient of Wholistic Pediatrics and Family care.

What if a pediatric patient seen by a Wholistic ReLeaf certifying physician needs a second physician's letter to complete the qualification process?

Wholistic ReLeaf has more than one physician on staff and can provide a second, independent evaluation after his/her ordering physician has seen the patient. The physician can typically provide this evaluation by performing a review of the pediatric patient's chart.

Will patients be able to purchase medical cannabis from any of the state-approved Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers?

Each Medical Marijuana Treatment Center is allowed to sell anywhere in the state, and they may have different products available. A patient can purchase products at any physical location or request home delivery via phone and internet orders. Individual cities are allowed to restrict Centers from opening physical locations within their borders but they are not allowed to prohibit delivery into their cities

How safe are the products that will be available?

All products must be tested for purity and standardized into known dosages. Additionally, they should be labeled appropriately to make it easy to differentiate between different products. Though not a legal requirement, we recommend only purchasing from Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers that clearly mark their products.

Are medical insurance companies required to cover the costs associated with the medical cannabis therapy?

No, insurance companies are not required to cover this therapy or pay/reimburse for medical cannabis evaluation consultations.

Does a patient have the legal right to use the medical cannabis while

out of state?

No, Florida qualified patients are not protected if they were to transport medical cannabis across state lines or use it in other state.

If a patient qualified to use medical cannabis is able to work, is the employer obligated to allow the patient to use medical cannabis products in the workplace?

No, to the contrary, Florida law prohibits the use of medical cannabis at the patient's workplace. The Americans with Disabilities Act does not require employers to allow medical cannabis use as an accommodation for a patient's disability.

Does Wholistic ReLeaf also provide primary care or other medication management?

Wholistic ReLeaf is solely limited to the evaluation, certification, and treatment of qualified patients who meet the State of Florida statutory requirements for receiving medical cannabis. Wholistic ReLeaf does not manage any medication or treatment for its patients other than those specifically recommended for that patient by a Wholistic ReLeaf physician. The non- Wholistic ReLeaf physician supervising that particular condition or treatment must manage all other medications and treatments. If non-cannabis medicine management is needed, a physician or nurse practitioner at Dr. Berger's full service medical practice, Wholistic Pediatrics and Family Care (WPFC), can provide this service.

What are Florida's medical cannabis laws?

The State of Florida strictly regulates medical cannabis. To maintain compliance with all applicable state laws, we will occasionally be required to update our policies. If such changes occur, we will make all reasonable efforts to keep our patients and families up-to-date and in compliance with all applicable laws. Information on the applicable Additional useful legal information is also accessible in the following downloads:

- [Medical Use of Marijuana \(SB 8A\)](#) - the new Florida law
- [Amendment 2](#) - ballot initiative language

**Some of these FAQ's were provided by the Florida Medical Association's "Florida Physician's Low-THC" Continuing Medical Education Course, released 7/15/16.*

Helpful Resources

- **Florida Department of Health**
 - Quick Fact Sheet: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-compassionate-use/documents/ocu-quick-facts.pdf
 - Patient's Guide: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-compassionate-use/documents/ocu-patients.pdf
 - Low-THC Cannabis Fact Sheet: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-compassionate-use/documents/ocu-low-thc.pdf
 - THC-containing Cannabis Fact Sheet: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-compassionate-use/documents/ocu-medical-cannabis.pdf
 - Office of Compassionate Use (state agency that oversees medical cannabis) <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-compassionate-use>
- **Realm of Caring** - a foundation dedicated to research, education, and advocacy for low-THC (CBD) cannabis: www.theroc.us
- **Leafly**: a resource providing information about various strains and treatment forms of medical cannabis, including reviews of products and Medical Cannabis Treatment Centers: www.leafly.com

- **Leaf Science** - a very good general resource for all things medical-cannabis related, with information that helps people weigh the risks and benefits of treatment: www.leafscience.com
 - Area that discusses various medical conditions: www.leafscience.com/topics/health
- **Wholistic Pediatrics & Family Care** (Dr. Berger's primary care and consulting practice) - www.wholisticfamilycare.com

In the News

[Dr. Berger Interviewed About Opening Wholistic ReLeaf](#)

[Dr. Berger Interviewed About Autism and Cannabis](#)

About Our Fee Structure

Our fees cover the detailed work done by the physician and staff, both before and after the consultation, to ensure the patient is in compliance with all applicable Florida law requirements.

- **Evaluation Certification/Recertification Only:** \$150
- **Evaluation Certification/Recertification and Medical Cannabis Dosing/Treatment Management:** \$250
- **Medical Cannabis Dosing/Treatment Management Only (no certification/recertification):**
 - \$150 - 250 (based on complexity and length of appointment)
- **Second Physician Chart Review for Pediatric Patients:** \$75
 - Required by State of Florida for patients under age 18)
- **Second Physician Chart Review for Pediatric Patients and Medical Cannabis Dosing/Treatment Management:**
 - \$150 - 250 (based on complexity and length of appointment)

~ Rev. 01.08.17 ~

How to Register

All patient registration material must be submitted electronically through our Electronic Medical Record system.

- If you would like to set up a patient portal to receive registration information, please complete the form on the Contact Us page of our website.
- Please review our [HIPPA Policy Notice](#)

Contact Information

- Email: info@WholisticReLeaf.com
- Phone
 - Non-Urgent Calls: (813) 603-4425, will be returned within 2 business days
 - Emergency Calls: Dial 911 or contact the patient's primary care physician or specialist
- Fax: (813) 603-4427