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|  | WFNJ SAI/BHICare Coordination Services |



## **To: All WFNJ SAI/BHI Clinical Care Coordination Staff**

## **From: Stacey Wolff, Director of Care Coordination Services**

## **CC: Luci Doppler, Clinical Director**

## **Date: August 8, 2107**

## **Re: POLICY: Management of Clients on the Medicinal Marijuana Program**

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Patients whose physicians recommend medicinal marijuana for certain illnesses and chronic conditions are exempt from criminal prosecution in states that have passed medicinal marijuana laws. A physician must certify that a patient has an approved debilitating medical condition to participate in the New Jersey

Medicinal Marijuana Program (MMP). Approved debilitating medical conditions include:

* Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
* Multiple sclerosis
* Terminal cancer
* Muscular dystrophy
* Inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn’s disease
* Terminal illness, if the physician has determined a prognosis of less than 12 months of life

The following conditions apply, if resistant to, or if the patient is intolerant to, conventional therapy:

* Seizure disorder, including epilepsy
* Intractable skeletal muscular spasticity
* Glaucoma
* Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

The following conditions apply, if severe or chronic pain, severe nausea or vomiting, or wasting syndrome **results from** the condition or treatment thereof:

* Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus
* Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
* Cancer

Eligible patients with a physician's recommendation are required to submit an application to the state, which issues identification cards for the MMP. Physicians must be registered with the program in order to certify a client’s eligibility. A list of physicians is available at nj.gov/health/medicalmarijuana. Under the ‘Patient’ tab, select the option that says ‘Find a Doctor.’ This will permit you to verify the doctor’s ability to prescribe medicinal marijuana.

Each patient must have a bona fide relationship with their physician in which the physician has the ongoing responsibility for the assessment, care, and treatment of the patient’s debilitating medical condition; meaning, the physician-patient relationship has existed for at least one year; **or** the physician has seen and/or assessed the patient for their debilitating medical condition on at least four visits; **or** the physician assumes responsibility for providing management and care of the patient’s debilitating medical condition after conducting a comprehensive medical history and physical examination. This includes a personal review of the patient’s medical records maintained by other treating physicians reflecting the patient’s reaction and response to conventional medical therapies.

The physician must complete an **“Attending Physician Statement”** for each patient in the MMP. Upon submission of the statement, a unique **“Patient Reference Number”** will be produced. The physician will need to provide the patient with this **Reference Number along with a copy of the attending physician statement.** The patient will go to the MMP website to complete an online registration to obtain a valid MMP patient card. There is a $200 registration fee but individuals who qualify for state and federal benefits (such as the SAI/BHI clients) would pay a reduced fee of $20.

All SAI/BHI clients claiming to have a prescription for medicinal marijuana must possess a medicinal marijuana card issued in New Jersey; it cannot be issued by another state.The prescription must be issued by a New Jersey physician who is registered and approved by the MMP for it to be recognized by the SAI/BHI, and the prescription must be provided with the MMP card to the CC. At this point in time, medicinal marijuana is not a covered service under Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare or any other health plans in the State of New Jersey. Medical marijuana will be packaged in 1/4 ounce denominations. The patient’s physician will determine the proper dosage; however, the maximum amount allowed by law is 2 ounces in a 30-day period. New Jersey has created six state-licensed "alternative treatment centers" (dispensaries); there are currently five operational and one pending:

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| [Compassionate Care Foundation, Inc.](http://www.ccfnj.org/)  | 100 Century DriveEgg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234(609) 277-7547  | Operational |
| [Greenleaf Compassion Center](http://www.greenleafcompassion.com/) | 395 Bloomfield Ave Montclair, NJ 07042(973) 337-5670 | Operational |
| [Garden State Dispensary](http://www.gardenstatedispensary.com/) | 950 U.S. Highway 1 NorthWoodbridge, NJ 07095 (848) 999-2005 | Operational |
| [Breakwater Alternative Treatment Center](http://www.breakwateratc.org/)  | 2 Corporate Dr., Suite ECranbury, NJ 08512(732) 703-7300 | Operational |
| [Harmony](http://www.harmonyfoundationmmjnj.com/) Foundation | 600 Meadowlands PkwySuite 15Secaucus, NJ 07094(201) 356-7268 | Operations Pending, Fall 2017 |
| [Compassionate Sciences, Alternative Treatment Center](http://www.csatc.org/)  | 111 Coolidge AvenueBellmawr, NJ 08031(856) 933-8700 | Operational |

All WFNJ SAI/BHI clients participating in the MMP must meet the following criteria and the Care Coordinator must adhere to the following procedures:

* The client must have at least one of the chronic conditions approved by the State of New Jersey as appropriate for the Medical Marijuana Program, listed above.
* The client must be registered with a valid MMP patient card issued by the State of New Jersey.
* A registered, and bona fide, MMP physician in New Jersey must prescribe the dosage and grant permission for the MMP card to be issued to the client.
* The client must present the card to the Care Coordinator to make a copy to be retained in the client chart.
* The client must present the medicinal marijuana PRESCRIPTON, along with the MMP card, to be retained in the chart. The CC must check the expiration and timeframe of the prescription (30, 60, 90 days).
* If the prescription is expired (although the MMP card may not be), and the client is testing positive for THC, this is considered a positive drug test and the CC must adhere to the SAI/BHI policies of a positive drug result.
* The Care Coordinator must obtain a signed release by the client for their MMP physician, and outreach the physician to review the case.
* The Care Coordinator must send a copy of the MMP card to the Director of Care Coordination services and the Quality Assurance Supervisor for review.