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CANNABIS: NEW FINDINGS/ILLINOIS MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

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CANNABIS RESEARCH FINDINGS (NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND MEDICINE 2017)

- Substantial evidence:
 - Association between long-term cannabis smoking and worse respiratory symptoms and more frequent chronic bronchitis episodes
- Moderate evidence:
 - *Cessation* of cannabis smoking and improvements in respiratory symptoms.
 - No statistical association between cannabis smoking and the incidence of lung cancer.
 - No statistical association between cannabis use and the incidence of head and neck cancers.

CANNABIS RESEARCH FINDINGS (NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND MEDICINE 2017)

- Limited evidence:
 - Statistical association between current, frequent, or chronic cannabis smoking and non-seminoma-type testicular germ cell tumors.
 - Association between occasional cannabis smoking and an increased risk of developing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) when controlled for tobacco use
- Insufficient evidence
 - To support or refute a statistical association between cannabis smoking and asthma development or asthma exacerbation.
 - Esophageal, prostate, cervical, bladder, penile, anal cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma

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CANNABIS RESEARCH FINDINGS (NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND MEDICINE 2017)

CANNABIS RESEARCH FINDINGS (NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND MEDICINE 2017)

- There exists a paucity of data on the effects of cannabis or cannabinoid-based therapeutics on the human immune system.
- Insufficient data to draw conclusions concerning the effects of cannabis smoke or cannabinoids on immune competence.
- Limited evidence to suggest that regular exposure to cannabis smoke may have anti-inflammatory activity.
- Insufficient evidence to support or refute a statistical association between cannabis or cannabinoid use and adverse effects on immune status in individuals with HIV.

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CANNABIS RESEARCH FINDINGS (NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND MEDICINE 2017)

- Smoking cannabis during pregnancy is linked to lower birth weight in the infant
- The relationship between smoking cannabis during pregnancy and other pregnancy and childhood outcomes is unclear.

CANNABIS RESEARCH FINDINGS (NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND MEDICINE 2017)

- Recent cannabis use impairs the performance in cognitive domains of learning, memory, and attention. **Recent use may be defined as cannabis use within 24 hours of evaluation.**
- A limited number of studies suggest that there are impairments in cognitive domains of learning, memory, and attention in individuals **who have stopped smoking cannabis.**
- **Cannabis use during adolescence is related to impairments in subsequent academic achievement and education, employment and income, and social relationships and social roles.**

CANNABIS RESEARCH FINDINGS (NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND MEDICINE 2017)

- Cannabis use prior to driving increases the risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident.
- In states where cannabis use is legal, there is increased risk of unintentional cannabis overdose injuries among children.

THE CANNABIS POTENCY PROBLEM

- Marijuana for research only available from U.S. government's marijuana farm
- Government marijuana averages 6% THC
- Street marijuana (and marijuana in dispensaries) can reach 30% THC or more

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(ILLINOIS) COMPASSIONATE USE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS PILOT PROGRAM ACT

MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD

- Physician certifies that patient has qualifying condition
- Fingerprinting
- Photo
- Criminal background check
- Application to Illinois Dept of Public Health
- Good for two years

PRESCRIPTION VS CERTIFICATION

- Patient is not prescribed medical cannabis
- Physician certifies that patient has one of the qualifying conditions

MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD

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PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

- Patient = Personal allowed to purchase and possess medical cannabis and cannabis products
- Designated caregiver = A person who is selected by a qualifying patient as the person who is authorized, on their behalf, to possess, obtain from a certified medical cannabis dispensary, dispense and assist in the administration of medical cannabis. Caregivers may only serve one patient, and **may not receive any payment or compensation for their services.**

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

- Cancer
- Glaucoma
- Positive status for HIV
- Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
- Hepatitis C
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS/Lou Gerig's Disease)

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: CONDITIONS

- Crohn's disease
- Agitation of Alzheimer's disease
- Cachexia/wasting syndrome
- Muscular dystrophy
- Severe fibromyalgia
- Spinal cord disease, including but not limited to arachnoiditis

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: CONDITIONS

- Tarlov cysts
- Hydromyelia
- Syringomyelia
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Fibrous dysplasia

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: CONDITIONS

- Spinal cord injury
- Traumatic brain injury
- Post-concussion syndrome
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Arnold-Chiari malformation and Syringomyelia
- Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA)

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: CONDITIONS

- Myoclonus
- Dystonia
- Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, RSD (Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type I),
- Causalgia, CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type II),
- Neurofibromatosis

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: CONDITIONS

- Polyneuropathy
- Sjogren's syndrome
- Lupus
- Interstitial Cystitis
- Myasthenia Gravis

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: CONDITIONS

- Hydrocephalus
- Nail-patella syndrome
- Residual limb (Phantom limb) pain

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: CONDITIONS

- Seizures (including those characteristic of epilepsy)
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- **Opioid alternative program:** Patients who would otherwise be prescribed an opioid can now choose to seek relief with medical cannabis and are eligible to apply for a 90-day renewable medical cannabis card

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT: SUPPLY

- 2.5 ounces every 14 days