



## Medical Cannabis Benefits & Risks Patient Guide



## Additional Resources



For help finding addiction treatment services call **601-359-1288**. or visit [dmh.ms.gov](http://dmh.ms.gov)



In the event of accidental cannabis poisoning call **Mississippi Poison Control Center** at **1-800-222-1222**.



Scan or visit [3MAms.org/health](http://3MAms.org/health) for more safe-use information.

## What Is Medical Cannabis?

**Medical cannabis** refers to products derived from the *Cannabis sativa L.* plant that may be used to alleviate symptoms of certain medical conditions. In Mississippi, the Medical Cannabis Program allows patients with qualifying debilitating conditions to access cannabis for therapeutic purposes. These products are available in various forms, including oils, tinctures, capsules, edibles, and vaporized options, each designed to meet specific patient needs. **It's essential to consult with a registered medical practitioner** to determine the appropriate form and dosage for your condition.



# Benefits of Medical Cannabis

- **Chronic Pain Management**

For chronic pain unresponsive to conventional therapies, medical cannabis offers a potential alternative. THC and CBD may modulate pain perception by engaging the endocannabinoid system, potentially easing conditions such as neuropathic and inflammatory pain

- **Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea & Vomiting**

Medical cannabis may alleviate chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV), especially when standard treatments fall short. Cannabinoids like THC and CBD, available through Mississippi's Medical Cannabis Program may interact with the body's endocannabinoid system to reduce these symptoms

- **Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Spasticity**

Medical cannabis has shown moderate effectiveness in reducing muscle spasms and improving mobility in MS patients

- **Other Chronic Medical Conditions**

There are over 25 debilitating qualifying conditions approved in the state of Mississippi for medical cannabis. For a full list of conditions, visit

<https://www.mmcp.ms.gov/patients-caregivers/qualifying-medical-conditions>

# Risks of Cannabis Use

- **Mental Health Concerns**

- **Schizophrenia:** Regular cannabis use, especially with high THC content, has been linked to an increased risk of developing schizophrenia, particularly in individuals with a predisposition to psychotic disorders

- **Anxiety Disorders:** While some users seek cannabis for anxiety relief, evidence suggests that it can exacerbate symptoms of anxiety and may contribute to the development of anxiety disorders in susceptible individuals

- **Cognitive Impairment**

- **Memory and Attention:** Heavy and prolonged cannabis use can impair working memory and attention, affecting daily functioning

- **Learning difficulties:** Chronic use may hinder learning processes, leading to challenges in acquiring new information and skills

- **Respiratory Issues**

- **Lung Health:** Smoking cannabis can lead to respiratory problems, including chronic bronchitis symptoms such as cough and phlegm production

- **Airway Inflammation:** Regular inhalation may cause inflammation of the airways

# Making Informed Choices

## About Medical Cannabis

Medical cannabis May provide relief for various conditions, but it's essential to understand both the benefits and risks. Long-term or high-dose use may contribute to mental health concerns, cognitive impairment, and respiratory issues. Every patient's response is different, and working closely with a licensed medical professional ensures safer use tailored to your needs

