



December 7, 2017

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dear Physician,

As you may be aware, on April 17, 2016, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 16 of 2016, also known as Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Act (Act), making medical marijuana legal in Pennsylvania. Since that time, the Department of Health has been hard at work, writing regulations, hiring staff, meeting with focus groups, and learning from other states' experiences.

I am excited to announce that we are on track to implement the program in early 2018. When fully implemented, the Medical Marijuana Program will provide access to medical marijuana for patients with a serious medical condition through a safe and effective method of delivery that balances patient need for access to the latest treatments with patient care and safety.

The Act defines a "serious medical condition" as any one of the following:

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Autism
- Cancer
- Crohn's disease
- Damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) / AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)
- Huntington's disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Intractable seizures
- Multiple sclerosis
- Neuropathies
- Parkinson's disease
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable pain in which conventional therapeutic intervention and opiate therapy is contraindicated or ineffective
- Sickle cell anemia

Right now, physicians, patients and caregivers may register to participate in the program. Information on how to register as well as the link to the registry can be found on our website at [www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov](http://www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov). Physician participation is vital to the success of this program. I encourage you to register as a practitioner in the program, as medical marijuana can be counted as one of many tools in a physician's toolbox to treat serious medical conditions.

In order to participate in the Medical Marijuana Program, a physician must first create a profile in the Department of Health Physician Registry. A validation of the physician's Pennsylvania medical license with the Department of State will occur. Physicians will then be prompted to complete the required 4-hour training provided by a Department of Health approved training entity. There will be a final review and approval by the Department of Health in order to become an approved practitioner who can issue patient certifications.

Additional resources available on our website include:

- Approved practitioners list;
- Temporary regulations for physicians and practitioners;
- A patient certification example;
- Approved training providers;
- Frequently asked questions;
- Informational brochures for patients;
- Informational 4-step cards for patients; and
- A video that can be played in waiting rooms.

Thank you for your consideration to participate in this program. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Office of Medical Marijuana at 717-547-3047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RL Levine MD', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Rachel L. Levine MD  
Acting Secretary of Health  
Physician General