

Minnesota Medical Cannabis Program Petition to Add a Qualifying Medical Condition

Making Your Petition

Any person may petition the Minnesota Department of Health (“the Department” or “MDH”) to add a qualifying medical condition to those listed in subdivision 14 of Minnesota Statutes section 152.22. Petitions will be accepted only between June 1, 2022, and July 31, 2022. Petitions received outside of these dates will not be reviewed.

Use this online form to submit requested information.

Instructions

Complete each section of this petition and attach all supporting documents where noted in this form. Clearly indicate which section of the petition an attachment is for. You can save your submission as a PDF, which you can print or keep for your records. Each petition is limited to one proposed qualifying medical condition. If your petition includes more than one medical condition, it will be dismissed. If you are petitioning for the addition of a medical condition that was considered but not approved in a prior year's petition process, you must include new scientific evidence or research to support your petition or describe substantially different symptoms. The MDH website has the petitions for each petitioned medical condition reviewed in prior years. See Petitions to Add Qualifying Medical Conditions. Petitions that do not include new scientific evidence or research to support your petition or describe substantially different symptoms will not be considered. If the petition is accepted for consideration, MDH will send the petition documents to the Medical Cannabis Review Panel (“Review Panel”). MDH staff will also provide information to the Review Panel about the proposed qualifying condition, its prevalence, and the effectiveness of current treatments. You may withdraw your petition any time before the Review Panel's first public meeting of the year by submitting a written statement to MDH stating that you want to withdraw it.

Petition Review Process

An appointed citizens Review Panel will meet to review all eligible petitions and supporting documentation. MDH will post notice of the public meetings of the Review Panel on its medical cannabis website. After the public meeting and by Nov. 2, 2022, the Review Panel will provide the Commissioner of Health a written report of findings.

The Commissioner will approve or deny the petition by Dec. 1, 2022.

Section A: Petitioner's Information

This information has been redacted.

Section B: Medical Condition You Are Requesting Be Added

Please specify the name and provide a brief description of the proposed qualifying medical condition. Be as precise as possible in identifying the condition. Optional: Include diagnostic code(s), citing the associated ICD-9 or ICD- 10 code(s), if you know them.

Irritable bowel Syndrome: this medical condition would fall under intractable pain due to its nature of causing digestive tract inflammation.

Section C: Symptoms of the Proposed Medical Condition and/or Its Treatment

Describe the extent to which the proposed qualifying medical condition or the treatments cause suffering and impair a person's daily life.

As a person living with (IBS) Irritable Bowel Syndrome, it is a disability that I have to factor into my everyday life, both personally and professionally. Everyday I take several bathroom breaks and take even more time than non IBS folks. This puts me behind work and I often have to ask for job accommodations regarding frequent breaks, rest times, and pain management. It has been difficult to fully manage the pain through both alternative and herbal (cultural) ways AND scientifically through medications like Omeprazole. IBS causes moderate to severe stomach pain, nausea, cramping, bloating, flatulence, urgent bowel movements, and diarrhea. For me, my IBS has caused me several embarrassing moments from leaving an important meeting to using the restroom to not being able to hold in my intestinal gas around folks. The spasms and inflammation of the intestinal tracts have really hindered 'normal' socialization and interaction with friends and family which forces me to isolate most times and keep to myself.

Section D: Availability of Conventional Medical Therapies

Describe conventional medical therapies available and the degree to which they ease the suffering caused by the proposed qualifying medical condition or its treatment.

I have been prescribed Omeprazole of different dosages to see how well it works for combating symptoms of IBS. Omeprazole worked for a couple weeks and in that span I saw improvement on my nausea and good appetite. However, long-term usage of the medication left me with even more nausea, hand and leg tremors (shakes), increased urgency to use the restroom and limited appetite. Increased dosage helped for a couple weeks but symptoms of IBS resumed. I also tried traditional Ethiopian remedies which helped with nausea and flatulence but proved ineffective in addressing pain management and urgent bathroom usage.

Section E: Anticipated Benefits from Medical Cannabis

Describe the anticipated benefits from the medical use of cannabis specific to the proposed qualifying medical condition.

I know the benefits of medical cannabis because while I was a District of Columbia resident, I recreationally used cannabis. This was prior to my IBS/spastic colon diagnosis. Further conversation with my GI doctor led me to seek more about medical cannabis and I was able to apply and receive my medical cannabis due to the severity of my IBS and to better manage my pain. I further discussed the positive outcomes of recreationally using with my GI specialist in terms of reducing the intensity of my spasms, reducing urgent bathroom breaks, alleviating my nausea, and creating a healthy appetite. We then both decided that I would greatly benefit from medical cannabis to help manage my IBS and improve my quality of life.

Section F (optional): Scientific Evidence of Support for Medical Cannabis Treatment

Strengthen your petition by including evidence generally accepted by the medical community and other experts supporting the use of medical cannabis to alleviate suffering caused by the proposed medical disease or its treatment. Please include citations and links (if available) to peer-reviewed published journals or other completed medical studies.

1. <https://irritablebowelsyndrome.net/living/medical-marijuana-as-treatment-for-ibs> (highlights the stigma with marijuana especially in the medical field)
2. <https://www.flmmjhealth.com/medical-marijuana-andibs/#:~:text=Using%20Medical%20Marijuana%20to%20Treat%20IBDInduced%20Abdominal%20Pain,properties%20and%20is%20known%20to%20alleviate%20nerve%20pa>in.
3. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5193087/>
4. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7279677/>
5. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27792038/>

Section G (optional): Letters in Support of Adding the Medical Condition

Upload letters of support for the use of medical cannabis from persons knowledgeable about the proposed qualifying medical condition, such as a licensed health care professional. (Please combine letters of support into one file before you upload.)

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Section H: Acknowledgment and Signature

Please note: Any individually identifiable health information relating to any past, present, or future health condition or health care contained in this petition is classified as a health record under Minnesota Statutes §144.291, and is not subject to public disclosure.

I certify that the information provided in this petition is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

This information has been redacted. (Submitted 05/26/2022)

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