



Originating Office, Deputate or Bureau: Medical Marijuana Advisory Board

Subject:
Qualifying Medical Conditions for Medical Marijuana Usage Application

Issue Date:
December 6, 2018

Effective Date:
December 6, 2018

Revision Date:
November 16, 2021

Rescission Date:
As needed

By Direction of:
Alison V. Beam, JD, Acting Secretary of Health and Chair of the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board

Distribution: Medical Practitioners, other licensed health care providers and interested persons

Policy location: Pennsylvania Department of Health, 625 Forster St., Health and Welfare Building, Harrisburg PA 17120

Scope: Medical Marijuana Advisory Board

Purpose: Pursuant to § 1201(j)(4) of the Medical Marijuana Act (35 P.S. § 10231.1201(j)(4)), the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board is empowered to accept and review written comments from individuals and organizations about medical marijuana. This policy establishes a procedure for the Board to accept comments, in particular, recommendations that serious medical conditions be changed, reduced or added. This policy further outlines the sequence of events following the submission of the “Qualifying Medical Conditions for Medical Marijuana Usage Application.”

Background: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognizes twenty-one (21) serious medical conditions that provide for the use of medical marijuana by approved patients. However, as more medical literature is published or becomes available surrounding the therapeutic or palliative use of medical marijuana for other medical conditions, the Commonwealth hopes to amend its qualifying conditions to accommodate for its citizens’ needs. Thus, citizens of the Commonwealth are provided the opportunity to petition the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board by completing the “Qualifying Medical Conditions for Medical Marijuana Usage Application” and submitting the medical evidence surrounding other possible qualifying conditions to the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board for the Board to review and consider.

Discussion:

- (1) An individual submitting comments to the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board, particularly a request to change, reduce, or add a serious medical condition to the list of serious medical conditions recognized by the act and regulations must submit the Qualifying Medical Conditions for Marijuana Usage Application via electronic submission to the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board’s Medical Review Subcommittee at the following email Ra-dhmedicalcond@pa.gov.
- (2) The requestor must submit the application request at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled meeting of the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board.

- (3) The members of the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board’s Medical Review Subcommittee will review the application request.
- (4) The subcommittee will deliberate and return a recommendation to the board members with the application in advance of the board meeting for information. The recommendation will be to a. approve, b. reject, or c. to consider modifications. The recommendation will also contain rationale for the selection.
- (5) The application will then be presented before the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board for final recommendation.
- (6) The Medical Marijuana Advisory Board will approve or reject the application. Approved applications will go to the Secretary for consideration.
- (7) If rejected, the requestor will receive a communication from the board explaining the decision. The requestor then will have the ability to request reconsideration by the Chairperson of the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board, in writing, set forth the reasons for the requested reconsideration. Upon a grant of reconsideration by the Chairperson, the requestor will be able to present their case directly to the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board. If reconsideration by the Chairperson is denied or, after granting reconsideration, the request is rejected by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board a second time, the requestors request will be deemed denied for one year, or until new scientific evidence is available.

Contact: If any concerns arise about this process, please email Ra-dhmedicalcond@pa.gov with your questions.