

Iowa's Medical Cannabis Program

Established in 2017 and launched in 2018, Iowa's Medical Cannabis Program allows individuals with certain eligible conditions to access medical cannabis at five retail dispensaries. Iowa's medical cannabis program allows the use of medical cannabis in four forms: oral (including tinctures, capsules, sublingual, and tablets), topical (including creams and gels), inhaled forms (including vaporized), and suppositories. Included at the end of this document is a complete list of the eligible conditions covered by the state's medical cannabis program and a chart of how many participants are registered with the program by condition.

Broad Spectrum Consumable Hemp Products and House File 2605

House File 2605 prohibits the sale and possession of consumable hemp products that contain greater than 4 mg total THC per serving and greater than 10 mg total THC per container within the state of Iowa.

- These products are currently legal in the state and are available for purchase at many physical retail locations in Iowa, online, and other states.
- HF 2605 establishes a regulatory framework which will prohibit the sale of products containing greater than 4mg total THC per serving or greater than 10mg total THC per container at all physical, retail establishments in Iowa.
- HHS will have limited means to prohibit online sales in Iowa or authority in other states and thus products are expected to continue to be readily available in other states and online.

The medical cannabis program's legal framework provides an affirmative defense for possession of all cannabis products, if those products are in a form and quantity that is allowed under Iowa's medical cannabis program.

- This affirmative defense applies whether the products were manufactured and dispensed in Iowa or acquired elsewhere. (See Iowa Code section 124E.12)

Some people diagnosed with epilepsy, or severe forms of autism with self-injurious or aggressive behaviors, have a medicine-resistant (intractable) form of the condition.

- These are qualifying diagnoses for the medical cannabis program, and patients do seek oral forms through the medical cannabis program for treatment of these conditions which currently includes liquids, tinctures, and sublingual forms.
- Many pediatric patients use a broad spectrum oral form product that contains less than 4mg THC/serving but may contain greater than 10mg THC/container.
- Patients who possess these forms will have an affirmative defense for prosecution for possession, provided they are registered card holders with the medical cannabis program.

Complete List of Eligible Conditions

Cancer, if the underlying condition or treatment produces one or more of the following: → Severe or chronic pain → Nausea or severe vomiting → Cachexia or severe wasting	Any terminal illness, with a probable life expectancy of under one year, if the illness or its treatment produces one or more of the following: → Severe or chronic pain → Nausea or severe vomiting → Cachexia or severe wasting
Seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy	Parkinson's Disease
AIDS or HIV as defined in Iowa Code section 141A.1	Chronic pain
Crohn's disease	Severe, intractable autism with self-injurious or aggressive behaviors
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	Post-traumatic stress disorder
Severe or chronic pain	Corticobasal degeneration
Ulcerative Colitis	

Current Active Patient Cardholders

This table depicts, as of April 2024, the number of certifications by age group for each qualifying medical condition for all active patient cardholders.

Age	AIDS/HIV	ALS	Autism	Cancer	Chronic Pain	Crohn's	MS	Parkinson's	PTSD	Seizures	Terminal Illness	Ulcerative Colitis
10 or Under	0	0	34	0	4	0	0	0	3	6	0	1
11 - 17	0	0	38	3	11	2	0	0	7	7	1	1
18 - 30	5	1	22	18	1310	21	6	2	860	52	0	21
31 - 40	12	0	9	52	2656	45	32	7	1306	71	1	34
41 - 50	14	1	3	107	3076	32	46	6	832	66	0	36
51 - 60	18	3	2	153	2288	18	39	22	342	28	0	16
61 - 70	10	3	2	226	2295	15	31	36	172	20	2	12
71 - 80	3	1	0	113	890	7	6	36	37	8	2	2
81 - 90	0	0	1	17	152	0	4	16	3	0	1	0
Over 90	0	0	0	7	27	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	62	9	111	696	12709	140	164	126	3562	258	7	124