

# MEDICAL CANNABIS FACT SHEET FOR MDs



Georgia passed HB 1 during the 2015 legislative session, allowing for possession of cannabis oil with up to 5% THC, with a doctor's certification, for patients with the following conditions: Cancer, ALS, Seizure Disorders, MS, Crohn's Disease, Mitochondrial Disease, Parkinson's, and Sickle Cell Disease. Many patients have already started contacting their doctors, asking to get started. This flyer is intended to provide basic facts and links to more information.

In legal medical cannabis states, many seizure patients using high CBD cannabis oil have experienced both considerable seizure reduction AND improved cognition. Different patients have seen different success rates at different levels of THC.

## TOP 3 PHYSICIAN QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Based on conversations that patients have already had with their doctors, these are the top three concerns currently being raised:

### **How do I dose medical cannabis?**

A reputable provider will have dosing guidelines and/or an online dosing calculator. Most patients will start with 0.5mg/lbs/day, so a 40 lb patient will therefore start with 20mg/day of CBD. If the oil concentration is 30mg CBD per 1ml, then the patient will start with 0.66ml/day (20mg/30mg). Most providers also recommend dividing the total daily dose into 2-3 doses per day.

### **What are interactions with other medications?**

Even though most patients see minimal side effects from the cannabis oil itself (sleepiness, some reactions to the carrier oil), some see increased levels of their existing medications, particularly Onfi and Depakote. We are recommending all patients work with their doctor to monitor levels of all existing medications.

### **How do I find out about the safety and efficacy of the cannabis oil?**

A reputable provider will have a third-party lab report that shows the potency of the oil, as well as the level of microbes, residual solvents, heavy metals, and pesticides. We are recommending all patients obtain a copy of the third-party lab report that is directly tied to their batch of oil.



## PROVIDERS

We do not recommend any one provider, and are suggesting to patients that they research the best option for them, based on ease of access, reliability and safety of the product, and availability of third party lab reports. The following are three products and providers that are currently being used by Georgia patients:

- Charlotte's Web from CW Botanicals- <http://cwbotanicals.com/>  
This provider has been featured in the CNN Weed documentaries.
- Haleigh's Hope with patient support from Flowering Hope Foundation - <http://haleighshope.com/>  
This product is named after Haleigh Cox, the namesake of HB 1.
- Palmetto Harmony from Palmetto Synergistic Research - <http://palmettoharmony.com/>  
This product is available from South Carolina.

## LINKS TO INFORMATION

Americans for Safe Access is an excellent website for information on medical cannabis, its history, research, safety, and use on different conditions:

- <http://www.safeaccessnow.org/> and
- [http://www.safeaccessnow.org/medical\\_professionals](http://www.safeaccessnow.org/medical_professionals)
- A link to HB 1 can be found at: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20152016/HB/1>

## STEPS FOR PHYSICIANS TO REGISTER A PATIENT

1. Physicians must first register with the Georgia Department of Public Health at:  
<https://dph.georgia.gov/low-thc-oil-registry>
2. Obtain the patient's signed and notarized waiver form to keep in your files.
3. Register the patient electronically on the DPH website at:  
[https://sendss.state.ga.us/sendss!/thc.thc\\_login](https://sendss.state.ga.us/sendss!/thc.thc_login)
  - The waiver and certification form include provisions that waive any rights to actions against physicians for the use of cannabinoids and THC containing products. A list of FAQs for physicians can be found at:  
<https://dph.georgia.gov/low-thc-oil-faq-doctors>
  - After registering, the patient will receive a call from the DPH to pick up their low-THC oil possession card at the local county health department closest to them.

