

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM (ECS)

EDUCATIONAL SERIES:
MEDICAL MARIJUANA 101



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Your body naturally creates substances called endocannabinoids, and some of these are similar to the cannabinoids found in marijuana.

The body's ECS sends "signals" (endocannabinoids) to "receivers" (CB1 and CB2 receptors) to help balance your body's sleep cycle, appetite level, and more.

The cannabinoids in marijuana act in a similar way by connecting to the CB1 and CB2 "receivers" which can lead to different effects (e.g., increased appetite, changes in mood). But cannabinoids in marijuana are not identical to human cannabinoids and they are not the only component of marijuana.

It is not yet completely understood whether and how medical marijuana may help with a number of medical conditions.

-  CB1 receptors
-  CB2 receptors



CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Supports the brain and central nervous system including increasing memory.

IMMUNE SYSTEM

Affects the immune system to reduce inflammation.

HORMONES

Balances hormones that support metabolism, reproduction, and stress levels.

DIGESTING FOOD

Helps control irritation and inflammation in your digestive system.

MUSCLES

Helps control blood sugar. Creates a feeling similar to a "runner's high".

BONES

Supports bone mass and strength.

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Wilson RI, Nicoll RA. Endocannabinoid signaling in the brain. *Science.* 2002;296(5568):678-82.

Zlebnik NE, Cheer JF. Beyond the CB1 Receptor: Is Cannabidiol the Answer for Disorders of Motivation? *Annu Rev Neurosci.* 2016;39:1-17.

Greenwich Biosciences, Inc. 2019. The Difference Between THC and CBD: Endocannabinoid System. Accessed from www.cannabinoidclinical.com.

For more information, please visit the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research at mmjoutcomes.org.

Please note: this document is for informational purposes only, but is not medical or legal advice and should not be used to make healthcare decisions. Please consult your healthcare provider to find out what treatment options are available for you.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM IN FLORIDA: HISTORY AND DEFINITIONS

In 2016, Florida implemented the Compassionate Medical Use Act, also known as Amendment 2.

This allows patients with a qualifying condition to use medical marijuana after receiving certification from an authorized medical marijuana physician.

Office for Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU)

Established by the Florida Department of Health, the Office for Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) is charged with writing and implementing the Department of Health's rules for medical marijuana; overseeing the statewide Medical Marijuana Use Registry; licensing Florida businesses to cultivate, process and dispense medical marijuana; and certifying marijuana testing laboratories.

Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs)

Often called dispensaries, licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTCs) are the only businesses in Florida authorized to dispense medical marijuana and low-THC cannabis to qualified patients and caregivers.

Certifying Physician

A physician who is authorized to order low-THC cannabis, medical marijuana or cannabis delivery devices for qualifying patients. A list of certifying physicians can be located at knowthefactsmmj.com.

Medical Marijuana Use Registry (MMUR)

The Medical Marijuana Use Registry (MMUR) is a secure, electronic, online database for the registration of qualified physicians and patients and their orders.

It is accessible by patients, qualified physicians, law enforcement, medical marijuana treatment center staff and Office of Medical Marijuana Use staff.

Conditions

To be eligible for medical marijuana in Florida, you must have one of the following qualifying medical conditions or symptoms:

- Cancer
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Crohn's Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Parkinson's Disease
- Medical condition comparable to those listed
- Terminal condition diagnosed by a physician other than the qualified physician issuing the physician certification
- Chronic nonmalignant pain caused by a qualifying medical condition or that originates from a qualifying medical condition and persists beyond the usual course of that qualifying medical condition

**To learn more, please visit the Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU)
at knowthefactsmmj.com**