The Do's & Don'ts

*Insurance is neither required to pay for medical services nor products related to MM

* MM is still considered illegal under Federal Law but legal under state law. The feds have openly stated that they will not prosecute doctors/patients who are acting in good faith for health benefits.

* MM can only be recommended and dispensed in 45 day increments

* Treatment plans at the UF Pharmacy registry must be updated every 3 months.

* Visits are required by this office every 45 days but this may change in the future.

* Appointments in our office are available quickly and usually within a few working days.

* Recommendations for MM are tailored to each individual patient and their unique situation. We try very hard to make it a comfortable and pleasant experience for all.

For further information, please call our office;

727-498-6488

The Florida state website for the Office of Compassionate Use is; http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-compassionate-use/

Medical Marijuana

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Medical Marijuana: the Ins and Outs…

Medical marijuana has been in the news a lot across the nation in the past 10 or so years and even more so in the Florida news for the past two years. In 2014, Florida passed laws to permit the limited use of medical marijuana. Amendment 2 was passed by voters and came into effect the first of this year. This constitutional amendment allows for medical marijuana to be used for many more diagnoses than the original statute. The legislature is working on rules and regulations that should permit Amendment 2 to be fully integrated by September, 2017.

CBD and THC

CBD and THC are components of the marijuana plant. They are two of many constituents in the plant and they are the most well studied and understood. CBD has the main effect of stabilizing the nervous system. It can help with many issues such as anxiety, PTSD, insomnia, pain, muscle spasm, epilepsy or seizures, Parkinson's disease, cancer and, potentially, many other

disorders. It is not considered to be psychoactive, i.e. it does not get you high. THC is the other main component of medical marijuana and is also good to treat many issues. It is shown to benefit in cancer, glaucoma, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency), pain, multiple sclerosis and nerve pain. It is considered the psychoactive component of the medical marijuana and can give you a high effect.

The Laws and the Process

The laws regarding the recommending (we do not call it prescribing) of medical marijuana (MM) are somewhat strict but are workable. I will review them in tabular form for clarity.

–You must first see a doctor who is registered with the DOH Office of Compassionate Use and with whom you have had a professional relationship for the past three months.

–If you are seeing the doctor for the first time, you must wait 3 months before you can get the MM recommended to you.

–Once recommendation is begun, the doctor will review an Informed Consent Form in detail regarding the nuances of MM.

–The next step is to register you with the Compassionate Use registry which will contain your demographics and the MM recommendation.

–Then you are entered into the University of Florida Medical Cannabis Registry which will contain symptoms, diagnoses, associate conditions and treatments to date.

–Once all that is done, your doctor will give you a Patient Registry number which you will bring to any of the MM dispensaries in the state. The last step, the dispensary will provide you with your MM.

The process is certainly not a simple one and the government was taken to task to keep this program a safe one as far as the public was concerned. I have, to date, found the MM to be quite effective at relieving pain, insomnia, anxiety and a myriad of other issues. Undoubtedly, the situation will change as we get better experience with this program. This year stands to be quite monumentous regarding the issues surrounding the safe use of MM. Stay tuned…

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