



## State-by-State Language Allowing Pain

Every one of the 39 medical cannabis states allows individuals to qualify if they suffer from pain. However, the language varies significantly from state to state. Some states grant medical providers the discretion to recommend cannabis for any medical condition. Others allow anyone with chronic or severe pain to qualify. On the other end of the spectrum, vast numbers of pain patients are still left behind due to some states' narrow definitions of what type of pain qualifies. These include requirements that the pain must persist for months before qualifying, and/or pushing patients to first try other, more dangerous treatments without success.

The below chart includes the state-by-state language for what type of pain qualifies for cannabis, starting with the least restrictive and ending with the most restrictive. In addition, 24 states have enacted laws allowing any adult 21 and older to use cannabis. They are noted with an \* symbol. .

Language	State(s)
<b>Any condition</b> qualifies if a physician believes cannabis may alleviate it	California*, Delaware*, Maine*, Oklahoma, Nebraska, New York*
<b>“Chronic, severe, intractable, or debilitating pain”</b>	Kentucky
<b>“Chronic pain”</b> (In Illinois, patients also qualify with a “medical condition for which an opioid has been or could be prescribed by a physician based on generally accepted standards of care.”)	Illinois*, Minnesota*, New Jersey*
<b>“Moderate to severe chronic pain”</b> or “any debilitating or terminal medical condition” if the practitioner believes the benefits likely outweigh the risks	New Hampshire
“A disease, medical condition, or its treatment that is chronic, debilitating, and produces ... <b>chronic pain</b> ”	Vermont*
“A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces ... <b>severe, debilitating pain</b> ”	South Dakota
“A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition, or treatment [for such conditions, which produces] ... <b>severe pain</b> ”  In Colorado, cannabis can also be recommended in lieu of an opioid.	Colorado*, Hawaii, Maryland*
“A medical condition or treatment for a medical condition that produces ... <b>severe pain</b> ”	Nevada*, Oregon*
“A chronic or debilitating disease or its treatment that produces ... <b>severe pain</b> ”	Alaska*

Language	State(s)
"Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable pain"	Pennsylvania
"Intractable pain," which "means a pain state in which the cause of the pain cannot be removed or otherwise treated with the consent of the patient and which, in the generally accepted course of medical practice, no relief or cure of the cause of the pain is possible, or none has been found after reasonable efforts. It is pain so chronic and severe as to otherwise warrant an opiate prescription." The law also includes "Any condition ... an authorized clinician, in his clinical opinion, considers debilitating to an individual patient and is qualified through his clinical education and training to treat."	Louisiana
"A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces ... <b>severe and chronic pain</b> "	Arizona*, Michigan*
"A <b>chronic</b> medical condition that causes <b>severe, persistent pain</b> " or "A chronic medical condition that is normally treated with a prescription medication that could lead to physical or psychological dependence, when a physician determines that medical use of marijuana could be effective in treating that condition and would serve as a safer alternative to the prescription medication"	Missouri*
"A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition, or its treatment, that produces ... <b>debilitating, chronic pain</b> "	Rhode Island*
" <b>severe chronic pain</b> "	New Mexico*
"Pain that is either... <b>chronic and severe or intractable</b> "	Ohio*
" <b>pain lasting longer than two weeks</b> that is not adequately managed, in the qualified medical provider's opinion, despite treatment attempts using: (i) conventional medications other than opioids or opiates; or (ii) physical interventions"	Utah
" <b>Severe chronic pain</b> that is persistent pain of severe intensity <b>that significantly interferes with daily activities</b> as documented by the patient's treating physician"	Montana*
<b>Severe, debilitating pain "that has not responded to previously prescribed medication or surgical measures for more than 3 months or for which other treatment options produced serious side effects"</b>	North Dakota
A condition causing <b>intractable or chronic pain</b> "in which <b>conventional therapeutic intervention and opiate therapy is contraindicated or has proved ineffective</b> "	Alabama

Language	State(s)
<p><b>“Intractable pain ... [which is] unrelieved by standard medical treatments and medications”</b></p>	<p>Washington</p>
<p><b>“Severe chronic or intractable pain</b> in which conventional therapeutic intervention and opiate therapy is contraindicated or ineffective”</p>	<p>West Virginia</p>
<p><b>Any debilitating medical condition</b> that the physician believes cannabis may alleviate qualifies if it is “of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated” (which are serious conditions such as HIV/AIDS and cancer)</p>	<p>Florida</p>
<p><b>“Chronic pain of at least 6 months duration associated with a specified underlying chronic condition refractory [resistant to] to other treatment intervention”</b></p>	<p>Connecticut</p>
<p><b>Intractable pain that has not responded to ordinary medical or surgical measures for more than six months</b></p>	<p>Arkansas</p>
<p>A condition causing <b>“intractable pain ... and progressing to such an extent that one or more of a patient’s major life activities is substantially limited”</b></p>	<p>Massachusetts</p>
<p>Chronic pain means "a pain state in which the <b>cause of the pain cannot be removed</b> or otherwise treated, and which in the generally accepted course of medical practice, <b>no relief or cure of the cause of the pain is possible, or none has been found after reasonable efforts by a practitioner.</b>"</p>	<p>Mississippi</p>