

"The New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals applaud the Administration on responsibly moving the program forward. We are buoyed by the inclusion of acute care hospitals in the MMP and excited to participate in what surely become a model for the nation."

- ***Richard Goldstein, MD***

"Earlier this week, the Medical Society of New Jersey met with the Department of Health & Senior Services about their plan for the distribution and use of medical marijuana. MSNJ provided input for safe and effective implementation with the understanding that a physician is responsible for both the ongoing care and monitoring of his/her patient. The importance of the physician-patient relationship must not be compromised because of external circumstances.

MSNJ understands the sensitivity and magnitude of an issue such as this one and is committed to helping its physicians care for their patients in a most compassionate manner. We're confident that the DHSS will put guidelines in place to create access for those patients who truly need medicinal marijuana for symptom relief. MSNJ will continue to be a resource to the DHSS during the development and implementation phases."

- ***A Statement from Michael T. Kornett, Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Society of New Jersey regarding the implementation of medical marijuana in New Jersey.***

**NJHA Supports State's Efforts on Compassionate Medicinal Marijuana Use**

"NJHA supports the compassionate use of medicinal marijuana to ease the symptoms for patients who suffer from certain conditions that are painful and debilitating. The New Jersey Legislature and the Christie Administration have taken steps to adopt legislation and develop a medicinal marijuana policy that will provide much-needed relief to these patients while providing the security measures and safeguards that New Jersey residents expect.

"We applaud the decision to include a strong clinical aspect in the dispensing of medicinal marijuana by establishing important roles for physicians and hospitals, and individual hospitals will now be able to decide how best to support this initiative."

- ***Statement from Betsy Ryan, President and CEO, New Jersey Hospital Association***