

mmp-009 ①

New Jersey Department of Health  
Medicinal Marijuana Program  
PO 360  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

**MEDICINAL MARIJUANA PETITION**  
(N.J.A.C. 8:64-5.1 et seq.)

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This petition form is to be used only for requesting approval of an additional medical condition or treatment thereof as a "debilitating medical condition" pursuant to the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-3. Only one condition or treatment may be identified per petition form. For additional conditions or treatments, a separate petition form must be submitted.

**NOTE: This Petition form tracks the requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:64-5.3. Note that if a petition does not contain all information required by N.J.A.C. 8:64-5.3, the Department will deny the petition and return it to petitioner without further review. For that reason the Department strongly encourages use of the Petition form.**

This completed petition must be postmarked **August 1 through August 31, 2016** and sent by **certified mail** to:

New Jersey Department of Health  
Office of Commissioner - Medicinal Marijuana Program  
Attention: Michele Stark  
369 South Warren Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

Please complete each section of this petition. If there are any supportive documents attached to this petition, you should reference those documents in the text of the petition. If you need additional space for any item, please use a separate piece of paper, number the item accordingly, and attach it to the petition.

**1. Petitioner Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Identify the medical condition or treatment thereof proposed. Please be specific. Do not submit broad categories (such as "mental illness").**

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

**3. Do you wish to address the Medical Marijuana Review Panel regarding your petition?**

- Yes, in Person
- Yes, by Telephone
- No

**4. Do you request that your personally identifiable information or health information remain confidential?**

- Yes
- No

If you answer "Yes" to Question 4, your name, address, phone number, and email, as well as any medical or health information specific to you, will be redacted from the petition before forwarding to the panel for review.

(It is hard for me to write a lot because my hands can barely hold a pencil.)

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 22 2016  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF Page 1 of 3 Pages.

MEDICINAL MARIJUANA PETITION  
(Continued)

5. Describe the extent to which the condition is generally accepted by the medical community and other experts as a valid, existing medical condition.

Every case is different. It's a valid medical condition already. The pain is the first indicator that it is an actual illness. It took 2 doctors to diagnose and I have gone through 5 doctors to try and treat my pain. So far I have had no luck.

6. If one or more treatments of the condition, rather than the condition itself, are alleged to be the cause of the patient's suffering, describe the extent to which the treatments causing suffering are generally accepted by the medical community and other experts as valid treatments for the condition.

The medications given to me cause long term effects. Some have included blood clots, infertility, anxiety, mental instability, potential blindness, stomach ulcers, hair loss, weight/muscle lost, skin conditions, extremely low immunity and many more.

7. Describe the extent to which the condition itself and/or the treatments thereof cause severe suffering, such as severe and/or chronic pain, severe nausea and/or vomiting or otherwise severely impair the patient's ability to carry on activities of daily living.

I'm 21 and have to be treated like I live in a nursing home. My boyfriend has to dress me on my really painful days. I sometimes can't drive because I can't turn my wheel. I constantly get nauseous and get bad migraines to the point where I can't stand. I cannot live alone, it would never be an option.

8. Describe the availability of conventional medical therapies other than those that cause suffering to alleviate suffering caused by the condition and/or the treatment thereof.

I have been on 7 or 8 different medications since I was diagnosed in July of 2015. Nothing has helped me and I have been in a constant flare ever since. There are no designated medicines for Lupus which is not for for me and anyone who suffers everyday. Marijuana is the only medicine that helps my inflammation, headaches, and overall living.

9. Describe the extent to which evidence that is generally accepted among the medical community and other experts supports a finding that the use of marijuana alleviates suffering caused by the condition and/or the treatment thereof.

[Note: You may attach articles published in peer-reviewed scientific journals reporting the results of research on the effects of marijuana on the medical condition or treatment of the condition and supporting why the medical condition should be added to the list of debilitating medical conditions.]

See all attachments. Full petition is 14 pages

MEDICINAL MARIJUANA PETITION  
(Continued)

10. Attach letters of support from physicians or other licensed health care professionals knowledgeable about the condition. List below the number of letters attached and identify the authors.

See attachments. I cannot write anymore due to pain.

*I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I am 18 years of age or older; that the information provided in this petition is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge; and that the attached documents are authentic.*

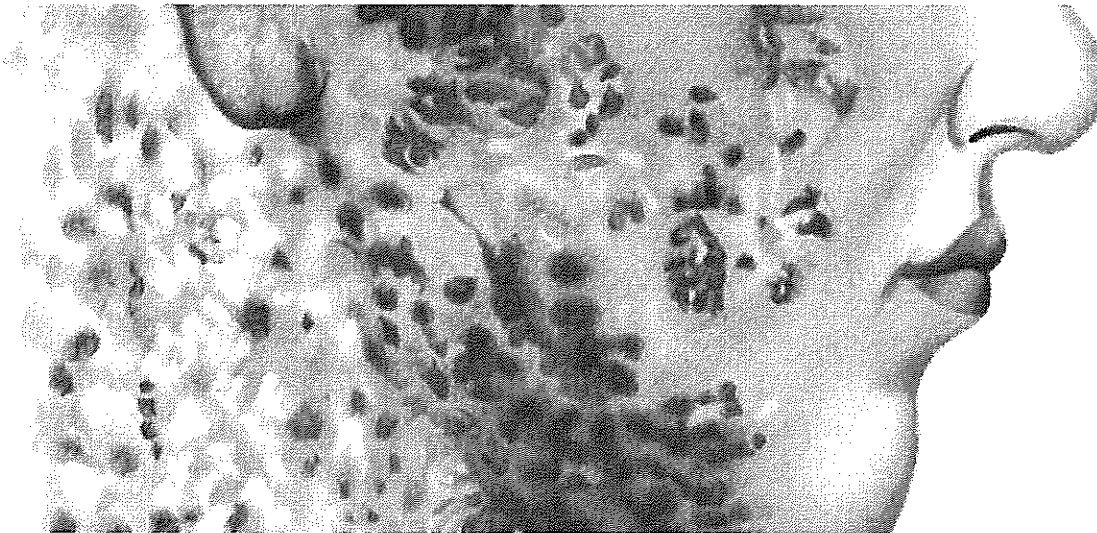
Signature of		Date	8/12/16
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How would you feel if you were in so much pain and no one took you seriously?

My name is [REDACTED], I am a senior at [REDACTED] and will be graduating this December with a bachelor's degree in Health Science and a Minor in Holistic Health. Imagine being woken up in the middle of the night by aching pains. The pain is so unbearable, even your sleeping body can't bypass it. I was diagnosed with Lupus (SLE) in July of 2015 and I have been in a constant flare up ever since. I live with constant pain that restricts me from doing things I love like hiking and doing anything active in general. Imagine having to wake up your boyfriend just so he can dress you in the morning because you physically can't do it on your own. It's embarrassing. I'm 21 years old and I have to be treated like I live in a nursing home. I grew up playing soccer all the way through my second year of college. But after I found out I had lupus I was forced to stop playing because my body couldn't physically keep up or handle it anymore. I'm in and out of doctor offices every few weeks, being fed medications that I'm told "might" work. Well guess what, a year later and after 8 different medications, nothing worked except for a steroid. Steroids are extremely harmful to the body and I refuse to continue to pump my body with them. In college, I learned all about the long term effects of modern day medicine. I smoke marijuana when I am in excruciating pain and it is the only time I get a period of relief. Sure I can continue to illegally buy it from a friend, risking my job and my future, but it is not really fair that I have to go through this much pain and suffering when people get medicinal marijuana for something like "headaches". I get headaches too, except they're worse. They're called lupus migraines and they're so unbearable that I can't leave my room when I get one let alone walk. I'm a 21 year old college student with two jobs, I'm not an average lower-class American living off of unemployment trying to get free handouts. I'm a hardworking, dedicated student who just wants to be relieved of pain. People today are so ignorant that they won't know what Lupus even is so they brush it off like it's nothing instead of researching what it actually is. Compared to some cancers, which is treatable, it can be classified as equally as serious or even worse. Cancer is a terrible thing and I would never wish it upon anyone. Yet Cancer has cures that are being discovered while Lupus was left on the back burner. I'm being given medications that are for people with malaria, or people who had organ transplants...it makes no sense. Marijuana is not a drug, it is an herb. It's used all over the world for different sicknesses. You can't die and you can't get addicted, it is a proven fact. And if you don't know this by now then you clearly haven't done your research. "It's a gateway drug", "Smoking marijuana makes you a druggo"; give me a break. What about all of the Americans who are a part of the statistic of getting addicted to the opioids that doctors prescribe? Don't feed us drugs, heal us. There are millions of clinical studies and facts that prove that this so called "gateway drug" should be given to any human being suffering from Lupus. Too much of any good thing can be bad if you misuse it, sure they're could be bad side effects, yet if you take your entire bottle of vitamins, you'll get the same result. You need to be responsible to be able to smoke marijuana legally, I agree. Yet working two jobs all year long and going to college full time is more than responsible. I can't get dressed by myself some days, I can't even sit up or get in the car by myself some days, why should I have to go through that? I've never done anything to deserve this, which is why I try my hardest everyday to keep my head up. But it's hard to do that when I'm being fed medications that are doing nothing for me. Fibromyalgia (which I was told I also have on top of Lupus) is a name given to your sickness when the doctors don't know what is wrong with you. In most states, including New Jersey, fibromyalgia qualifies for medical marijuana. I know people with

fibromyalgia who aren't as sick as I am at the moment. My type of Lupus comes with extreme joint inflammation, organ damage, mental problems, joint stiffness, Raynaud's disease, extreme migraines, and many more inconveniences. Yet fibromyalgia has actual medications to cure something that can't be figured out.... There's no medicine designed for Lupus. It's all about eating habits and lifestyle. Being pumped with medications is not the lifestyle I will live. I am graduating college in December with a bachelor's degree in Health Science and a Minor in Holistic Health. I fight for my energy every day and I just want to be my normal outgoing, happy self. I, as well as many, many others who suffer from this ghost disease, deserve to be given medical marijuana. Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (Lupus SLE) has every reason and right to be added to the medical marijuana list for New Jersey. Go ahead, give me reasons why it shouldn't because I can guarantee you, you won't be able to. Don't feed us drugs made by modern day scientists, heal us with what was put on this earth, untouched, by God.

Give me a call or call me into your office. Look me in the eyes after reading this and say no.



Resources

Medical Marijuana CBD Oil

Popular

Inflammation – Medical Marijuana Research Overview

Cirrhosis – Medical Marijuana Research Overview

Medical Marijuana, Inc.'s HempM Sponsor And Exhibit At Southern California Cannabis Conference Expo

Neuropathy – Medical Marijuana Research Overview

Traumatic Brain Injuries – Medical Marijuana Research Overview

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Majority of Voters in New Hampshire Support Marijuana Legalization, Study Shows

Pain Tops List of Most Common Conditions of Medical Marijuana

# Lupus – Medical Marijuana Research Overview

28 September, 2015

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Lupus, which affects 5 million people throughout the world, is an autoimmune disease where the body's immune system attacks its own healthy tissues. Studies have shown marijuana effectively improves inflammation and pain in chronic inflammation diseases like lupus.

## Overview of Lupus

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease where the body's immune system attacks its own tissues and organs through inflammation. When operating correctly, the immune system effectively fights off bacteria, bacteria and germs to remain healthy. In an autoimmune disorder, like lupus, the body is unable to tell the difference between harmful foreign invaders and healthy tissues and it responds by creating autoantibodies that cause inflammation and attack and destroy the healthy tissue. Lupus can damage the body's skin, kidneys, blood cells, joints, heart, brain and lungs.

According to the Lupus Foundation of American, flares and remissions characterize the autoimmune disease, as symptoms will continuously flow between worsening and improving. The disease is not contagious.

It can be difficult to diagnose lupus. While it doesn't occur in all cases, during flare-ups, the most distinctive symptom is a facial rash that resembles butterfly wings across both cheeks. When symptoms flare up, they can include fatigue and fever, joint pain and stiffness, skin lesions, shortness of breath and chest pain, dry eyes, headaches and fingers and toes that turn white or blue.

The disease can range from mild to life threatening and while there is no cure, with treatment, most people can manage their symptoms and lead a full life.

## Findings: Effects of Cannabis on Lupus

Cannabis has been found to effectively improve inflammation and pain, making it beneficial for those diagnosed lupus.

The major cannabinoid found in cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), has been determined to trigger cannabinoid receptors CB1 and CB2, which are primarily found in the brain and on the cells of the immune system, respectively. Triggering these receptors stimulates an immunosuppression response, as cytokine and chemokine production is downregulated and t-regulatory cells are upregulated. A review article analyzing the research of THC's effect on inflammation concluded that the cannabinoid found in cannabis has demonstrated it can constitute as a potent treatment modality against inflammatory disorders (Nagarkatti, et al., 2009).

Cannabis can also help curtail the pain associated with inflammatory diseases like lupus. Receptors CB1 and CB2 are involved in the mediation of pain caused by inflammation, so as the cannabinoids in cannabis act upon the receptors, pain decreases (Clayton, Marshall, Bountra & O'Shaughnessy, 2002) (Elikkottil, Gupta & Gupta, 2009). One study found that cannabis use is prevalent among the chronic pain population and their primary responses for reasons for use included improvements in pain (Ware, et al., 2003).

## States That Have Approved Medical Marijuana Lupus

Currently, only the states Illinois and New Hampshire have approved medical marijuana specifically for the treatment of lupus.

A number of other states will consider allowing medical marijuana to be used for the treatment of lupus with the recommendation from a physician. These states include: California (any debilitating illness where the medical use of marijuana has been recommended by a physician), Connecticut (other medical conditions may be approved by the Department of Consumer Protection), Massachusetts (other conditions as determined in writing by a qualifying patient's physician), Nevada (other conditions subject to approval), Oregon (other conditions subject to approval), Rhode Island (other conditions subject to approval), and Washington (any "terminal or debilitating condition").

In Washington D.C., any condition can be approved for medical marijuana as long as a DC-licensed physician recommends the treatment.

Other states have approved cannabis for pain, a symptom commonly associated with lupus. Several states have approved medical marijuana specifically to treat "chronic pain." These states include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. The states of Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio and Vermont allow medical marijuana to treat "severe pain." The states of Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington have approved cannabis for the treatment of "intractable pain."

## Recent Studies on Cannabis' Effect on Lupus

- Review of studies determines that cannabinoids in cannabis can serve as a compelling treatment modality against inflammatory disorders.

- Cannabinoids as novel anti-inflammatory drugs.  
(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20191092>)

- CB1 and CB2 receptors found to be involved in reducing inflammatory pain.

- CB1 and CB2 cannabinoid receptors are implicated in inflammatory pain.  
(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11972997>)

### References

Clayton, N., Marshall, F.H., Bountra, C., and O'Shaughnessy, C.T. (2002, April). CB1 and CB2 cannabinoid receptors are implicated in inflammatory pain. *Pain*, 96(3), 253-60.

Elikkottil, J., Gupta, P. and Gupta, K. (2009, November-December). The analgesic potential of cannabinoids. *Journal of Opioid Management*, 5(6), 341-57.

Lupus. (2014, November 18). Mayo Clinic. Retrieved from <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/lupus/basics/definition/con-20019676>.

Nagarkatti, P., Pandey, R., Rieder, S.A., Hegde, V.L., and Nagarkatti, M. (2009, October). Cannabinoids as novel anti-inflammatory drugs. *Future Medicinal Chemistry*, 1(7), 1333-49.

Ware, M.A., Doyle, C.R., Woods, R., Lynch, M.E., and Clark, A.J. (2003, March). Cannabis use for chronic non-cancer pain: results of a prospective survey. *Pain*, 102(1-2).

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\* Cannabidiol (CBD) is a naturally-occurring constituent of the industrial hemp plant

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# How Cannabis Helps Lupus

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October 20, 2015

Lupus

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## What is Lupus?



Lupus  
is a  
chronic

autoimmune disease in which your body can't tell the difference between viruses, germs and bacteria and your body's own healthy tissue. This leads to your immune system creating antibodies that attack and destroy healthy tissue, leading to inflammation, pain and damage to body parts. Lupus is characterized by flares, where symptoms worsen, and remissions, when symptoms improve. Unlike HIV or AIDS, where the immune system is under-active, the immune system is overactive in lupus.

Between 1.5 and 2 million Americans live with lupus, and most are women between the age of 15-45. The most severe cases of lupus are found in Asians and African-Americans. The most common type of lupus is system lupus erythematosus, which attacks several body organs. Drug-induced lupus is caused by using one of over 400 legal prescription drugs. Other types of lupus include cutaneous lupus, which mainly attacks skin and forms a butterfly-shaped rash across the nose, lupus nephritis, which attacks the kidneys, and neonatal lupus, which occurs in babies born to mothers with lupus.

Symptoms of lupus include pain all over but focused in hands, fingers, wrists, and knees, skin rashes, mouth sores, fatigue, mood changes, swelling of hands and feet, nausea,

vomiting,  
depression,  
anxiety,  
seizures,  
fevers,  
weight loss,  
chest pain,  
hair loss,  
ulcers,  
swollen  
lymph  
nodes,  
anemia and abnormal heart rate.

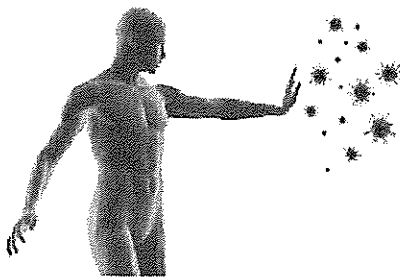


### How is the Endocannabinoid System (ECS) Disrupted in Lupus?

This is an area of medicine lacking in research. One day genetic studies will see if mutations in ECS genes are correlated with lupus. Because the immune system contains cannabinoid receptor type 2 (CB2), endocannabinoids directly influence the immune system.

### How Does Cannabis Help Lupus?

Pain and inflammation are two major symptoms of lupus, and cannabis helps relieve both, without nasty side effects that prescription medications have. Cannabis increases



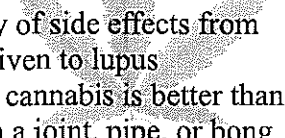
the  
levels  
of anti-

inflammatory protein interleukin-10 and decreases the levels of pro-inflammatory protein interleukin-2. Cannabis has also been shown to suppress the immune system by activating myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs). MDSCs may help dampen the hyperactive immune system found in lupus.

Cannabis also helps treat symptoms of nausea and abdominal cramping that are often severe side effects of commonly prescribed drug for lupus, such as Plaquenil and corticosteroids.

### How Can I Take Cannabis to Treat Lupus?

For patients who are not ready to quit taking their prescription medications yet, vaporizing cannabis is a great way to quickly ease pain, reduce inflammation and



decrease the severity of side effects from prescription drugs given to lupus patients. Vaporizing cannabis is better than smoking cannabis in a joint, pipe, or bong because it doesn't burn the cannabis. Smoking cannabis releases toxins similar to cigarettes, can cause lung irritation and often disintegrates cannabinoids with healing properties. Vaporizing cannabis heats the air around the cannabis, releasing a range of cannabinoids, each with unique health benefit.

Eating large doses of cannabis oil daily is essential if you want to make the switch from pills to cannabis only. Cannabis oil made from high-CBD strains work for some patients, but others do best with high THC & THCA extracts.. You can purchase cannabis oil in capsules to make it easier to swallow and remember dosing. If capsules are not available in your area, you can also purchase preloaded syringe of oil that you squirt into your mouth, or take cannabis tincture drops that you put under your tongue.



If you

have sleepissues, eating an edible (brownie, candy, etc.) at night can help. Cannabis topicals, in the form of creams or lotions you

put on your skin, can help with joint pain and swelling during the day.

A new way to get cannabis into your body is via a transdermal patch, similar to the birth control patch or the nicotine patch. This discrete method provides extended release medication for up to ten hours and is perfect for people who feel uncomfortable with other methods such as smoking cannabis. Patches on the market currently come in CBD, THC, 1:1 CBD:THC, and THCA varieties.

Juicing raw cannabis may reduce pain and inflammation associated with lupus, without that high you get from heated cannabis. That's because raw cannabis has THCA and CBDA, the non-psychoactive forms of THC and CBD. Juice strains of cannabis with high levels of CBD(A) for best results.

What Strains Are Best For Patients with Lupus?

Finding the right strain for you sometimes takes trial and error. For some patients, strains with high levels of CBD are optimal for lupus. These include Cannatonic, which has close to 1:1 ratio of THC to CBD, Charlotte's Web, Harlequin, and Sour Tsunami. For other patients, strains with high THC work.

Let's Make This Easy

1. Use cannabis cream on your achy joints during the day. Don't worry, it won't get you high.
2. Vape cannabis whenever you need pain or other symptom relief. Be safe and don't drive immediately after using your vaporizer if using a strain that has THC in it as well, you could get a chemical DUI in most states.
3. Eat an edible at night to help you sleep and relieve pain and inflammation. If you eat it during the day you may not be able to drive or work.
4. If you're lucky enough to live in an area where raw cannabis juice is available, drink it as often as you can afford to buy it. If not, try taking an extract with THC and THCA.

References

Lupus Foundation of America: What is Lupus?

Cannabinoid receptor activation leads to massive mobilization of myeloid-derived

suppressor cells with potent immunosuppressive properties. Hegde VL, Nagarkatti M, Nagarkatti PS. European Journal of Immunology (2010).

About the Author – Michele Ross, PhD



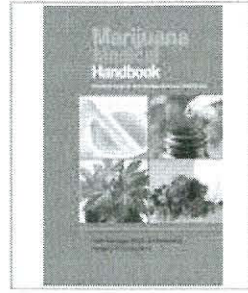
Michele Noonan Ross has a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and a BA in Psychology from Boston College.

She is the author of two books, including "Vitamin Weed: A 4-Step Plan to Prevent and Reverse Endocannabinoid Deficiency."

As founder of the Endocannabinoid Deficiency Foundation, she promotes the use of cannabinoids as vitamins our body makes and needs. Her focus is providing patients, health professionals, and policy makers with medically correct information on the endocannabinoid system and cannabinoid therapy.

Dr. Ross broke boundaries as the first female scientist on reality television, starring on the hit CBS show "Big Brother." She has leveraged her platform as a public figure to advocate for cannabis patients and change drug policy around the world.

# Marijuana Medical Handbook : Practical Guide to Therapeutic Uses of Marijuana



by Gieringer, Dale, Rosenthal, Ed,  
Carter, Gregory T.

Let me know if you would like to  
Speak to my Doctor, he will gladly vouch  
for me.