

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").**

ARTHRITIS

**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.

RECEIVED

AUG 3 0 2016

OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF OF STAFF

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.

1800 Landré-Beauvais a 2840 RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AT  
SANT PÉTRIÈRE ASYLUM IN FRANCE WAS THE FIRST TO NOTICE + TREAT RA.

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.

ARTHROSCOPY, ARTHROPLASTY, JOINT FUSION + OSTEOTOMY

PAIN MEDS - NSAIDS (MOTRIN, ADUIL, ALEVE)

Rx CELEBREX, ORUDIS, NAPROSYN, ANAPROX, FELDENE + CLINDORIL

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.

ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS ARE A VERY PAINFUL WITH THE  
MOVEMENT OF THE INFLECTIVE JOINT OR JOINTS

POST SURGERY IS PAINFUL ALSO

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.

OTC PAIN MEDS

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 ATTACHED PAPERS

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.

ONLINE ARTICLES FROM WEBMD, ANTHOIST FOUNDATION <sup>3</sup>

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 P



Date

7/19/16

## Medical Marijuana for Arthritis Treatment and Arthritis Pain

Please Select a State:

Medical marijuana contains powerful anti-inflammatory compounds as well as natural analgesics, providing a one-two punch that makes medicinal marijuana an excellent part of an arthritis treatment plan. Medical marijuana can relieve joint pain while at the same time reducing the inflammation that precipitated that pain. Rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and even juvenile arthritis may be treated with the help of cannabinoids naturally occurring in marijuana.

### Medical Marijuana is an Effective Treatment for Arthritis Pain and Inflammation

27 million Americans have osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis. This condition, also known as degenerative joint disease, causes breakdown of joint cartilage resulting in pain and inflammation where bare joints rub together. A further 1.3 million Americans are living with rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune condition that causes severe pain. In addition, 300,000 children in America have juvenile arthritis. While most doctors do not recommend use of medical marijuana for young children, adults and older teens can treat their arthritis with medicinal marijuana.

In a 2005 study, THC and cannabidiol were found to produce notable improvements in pain, quality of sleep, and to reduce disease activity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Both these compounds are

-- Select a State --

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Fill out the form below to contact one of our Medical Marijuana Specialists about obtaining your MMJ Card today.

First Name\*:

Last Name\*:

Email Address\*:

Phone Number\*:

Dispensary/Clinic:

-- Select a Dispensary --

Message/Note:

Deprecated: Assigning the return value of new by reference is deprecated in/home/medicalmarijuana/new-medical-marijuana/cake/libs/i18n.php on line107

Deprecated: Assigning the return value of new by reference is deprecated in/home/medicalmarijuana/new-medical-marijuana/cake/libs/i18n.php on line108

Deprecated: Function split() is deprecated in/home/medicalmarijuana/new-medical-marijuana/cake/libs/l10n.php on line396

Send Information

( \* indicates required fields. )



among the cannabinoids naturally occurring in medical marijuana. In 2000, researchers found that cannabidiol "effectively blocked progression of arthritis" in animal trials.

Although both these studies involve cannabinoids administered as drugs isolated from marijuana, medicinal use of cannabis by smoking, vaporizing, or eating, may be a better delivery method for the same potent analgesics and anti-inflammatories. When smoked, medical marijuana enters the smoker's blood stream immediately and is distributed evenly. In addition, **smoking medical marijuana provides the body with all the cannabinoids present in marijuana, not one or two isolated components.** Thirdly, in some states patients can legally cultivate marijuana plants, but the average patient cannot extract cannabinoids from marijuana, meaning patients who choose drugs that isolate particular cannabinoids must remain dependent on the pharmaceutical industry for their medicine.

## Choosing Medical Marijuana to Treat Your Arthritis and Pain

Before trying medical marijuana for your arthritis treatment, make sure medical marijuana is legal in your state, city, and county. If medicinal marijuana remains illegal in your area, **consider getting involved in local efforts to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes.** If it is legal, talk to your doctor about writing a recommendation for medical marijuana. Some doctors have limited experience with medical marijuana and may recommend you see a **medical marijuana specialist.**

Once you have a recommendation in hand, you will need to acquire your medicine. You'll need to either hire a **medical marijuana caregiver** or locate a medical marijuana dispensary in your area. Both options are not available in all areas, even where medical marijuana is legal. You may not have the option to use a dispensary or **your medical marijuana caregiver may be forced to serve only a limited number of patients.** Again, know your laws!

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*Disclaimer: This text is for informative purposes only and is not intended as a substi*

It's no secret: America's baby boomers are aging, and one of the most common ailments in older populations is arthritis. According to the [U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [53 million Americans have arthritis](#), with women making up 60 percent of the arthritis diagnoses. But what exactly is arthritis, and how can cannabis help it?

## What is Arthritis?

"Arthritis" is an umbrella term used to describe 200 rheumatic diseases affecting the joints and their surrounding tissues. It causes inflammation and stiffness that develops abruptly or gradually around one or more joints.

## Causes and Forms of Arthritis

Although more common in seniors, arthritis can severely impair a person of any age, leaving him or her unable to work or perform daily duties. In the United States, arthritis is the most common cause of disability, and high levels of stress and depression are often associated.



Genetics may cause arthritis, along with obesity, joint damage, infections, and occupations requiring repetitive bending or squatting. Dysfunction of the immune system and an abnormal metabolism can also lead to various forms of arthritis, though many rheumatoid diseases are caused by a combination of factors.

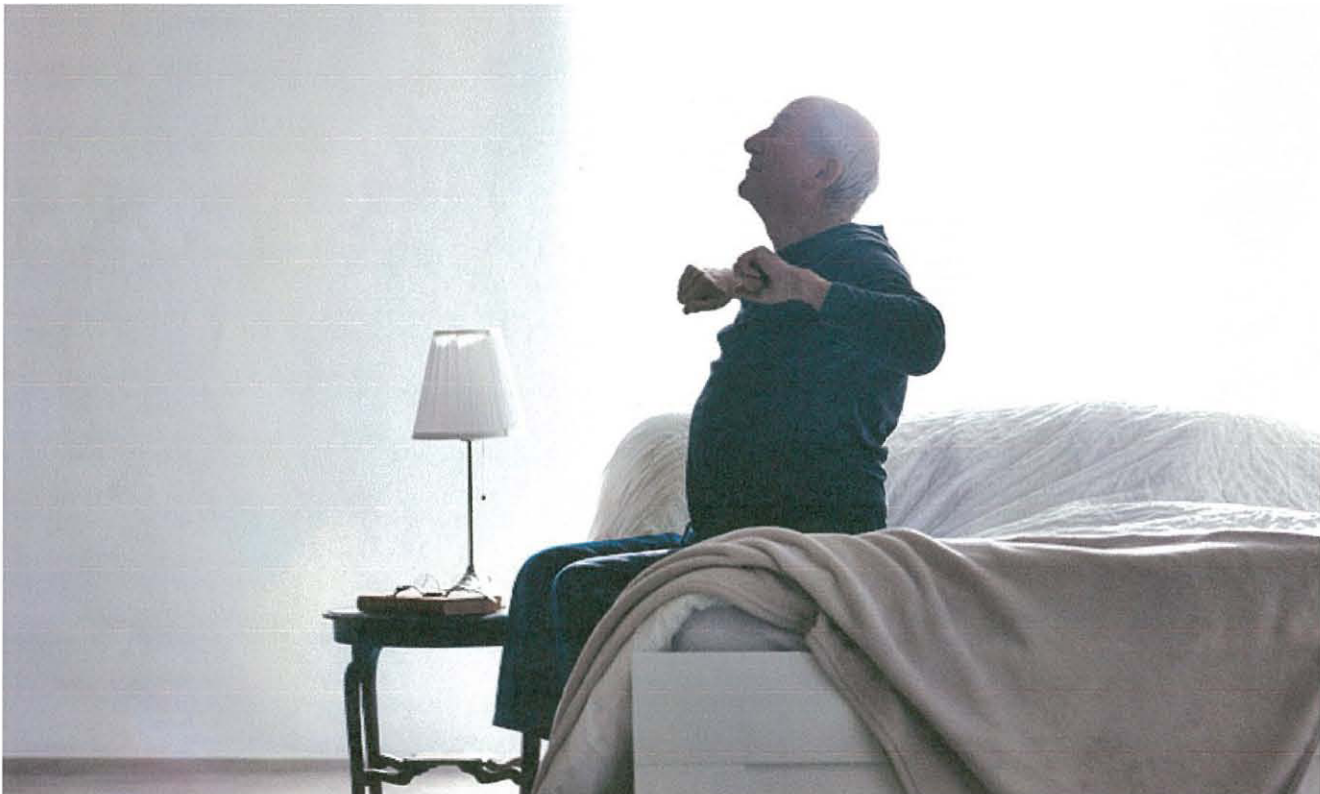
Forms of arthritis are broken into seven main categories:

1. **Inflammatory arthritis** — joints become inflamed for no apparent reason.
2. **Degenerative or mechanical arthritis** — the body tries remodeling the bone to restore stability. Osteoarthritis is an example.
3. **Soft tissue musculoskeletal pain** — pain felt in tissues rather than joints or bones, affecting overused body parts. For example, "tennis elbow."
4. **Back pain** — unspecified pain associated with muscles, discs, nerves, ligaments, bones, or joints in the back such as osteoporosis.



5. **Connective tissue disease** — pain in tendons, ligaments, and cartilage characterized by inflammation of the skin, muscles, lungs, and kidneys.
6. **Infectious arthritis** — inflammation in a joint caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi (examples of causes include food poisoning, STDs, and Hepatitis C). Antibiotics can usually treat it.
7. **Metabolic arthritis** — too much uric acid may form sharp crystals in a joint that cause sudden, excruciating pain. Gout is an example.

## Arthritis Treatment Methods

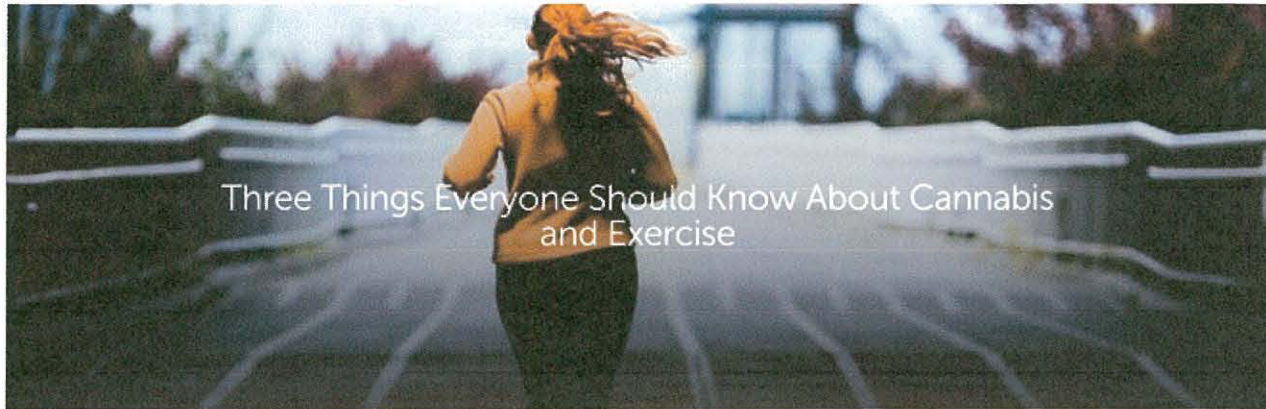


Although they don't heal joint inflammation, analgesics like Tylenol, Percocet, and Vicodin may be prescribed to reduce pain along with creams containing menthol or capsaicin. Over-the-counter non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like Advil, Motrin, or Aleve may be taken to reduce pain and inflammation.

Rheumatoid arthritis is treated with disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) to prevent the immune system from attacking inflamed joints. Corticosteroids like prednisone and cortisone may also be prescribed to reduce inflammation and suppress the immune system.

Exercise can ease pain and stress levels for people with arthritis, but **nearly a quarter of adults diagnosed with arthritis report being physically inactive**. Dietary changes may manage arthritis, as meats and foods high in sugar can exacerbate inflammation.





## How Cannabis Can Help Arthritis

While cannabis is classified as a Schedule I drug by the federal government, meaning it's considered highly addictive with no medical value and research on it is severely restricted — a scientific consensus has nevertheless emerged on its therapeutic value based on a growing body of successful preclinical and clinical trials. To the delight of many, those studies show that cannabis has anti-inflammatory effects that can help arthritis patients live happier, healthier lives.

Consequently, cannabis is gaining popularity as a treatment for arthritis. Cannabis can ease pain and reduce swelling without the potentially life-threatening side effects caused by frequent NSAID or opiate use.



In the summer of 2015, the Canadian Arthritis Society funded a three-year research grant to a Dalhousie University researcher to determine if marijuana can relieve pain or repair arthritic joints. Pain-detecting nerves are filled with **cannabinoid** receptors, and according to researcher Jason McDougall, **cannabinoids control the firing of pain signals from the joint to the brain** by sticking themselves to nerve receptors. Another controlled study, conducted by the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disease in the UK, showed that **cannabinoids provided statistically significant improvements in pain on movement, pain at rest, and quality of sleep.**

At a time when **opiate abuse has reached epidemic proportions**, cannabis treatment can be a far less harmful and less addictive way to treat those suffering from chronic pain associated with arthritis. According to Mike Hart, MD, head physician of the Ontario Chapter at Marijuana for Trauma (MFT):



"Cannabis is much more effective and safer long term solution than opioids. The science is clear and demonstrates that cannabis is far safer than opioids. In fact, it's not even close. Opioids have killed more people than all illegal drugs combined, while cannabis has never killed a single person."

Not only is cannabis an effective alternative treatment to NSAIDs or opiates, it can help people get off dangerous drugs such as opioids. According to Dr. Hart, "I have literally helped hundreds of patients reduce or eliminate their dependence on opioids."



In addition to increasing numbers of professionals within the medical industry recognizing the therapeutic value of cannabis, the public has also become more receptive to medical marijuana treatment. In January 2014, CBS News conducted a national poll finding that **86 percent of Americans believe doctors should be permitted to prescribe cannabis** to patients who suffer from serious illnesses such as arthritis. As far back as 2004, the **American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)**, which boasts 35 million members, published a national poll revealing that **72 percent of seniors support allowing the use of doctor-recommended cannabis to treat patients.**

Do you use medical marijuana to help manage your arthritis symptoms? If so, which strains have you found help best? Share your recommendations in the comments!



Aug. 30, 2010 -- Three puffs a day of cannabis, better known as [marijuana](#), helps people with chronic [nerve pain](#) due to injury or surgery feel less pain and [sleep](#) better, a Canadian team has found.

"It's been known anecdotally," says researcher Mark Ware, MD, assistant professor of anesthesia and family medicine at McGill University in Montreal. "About 10% to 15% of patients attending a [chronic pain](#) clinic use cannabis as part of their pain [control] strategy," he tells WebMD.

But Ware's study is more scientific -- a [clinical trial](#) in which his team compared [placebo](#) with three different doses of cannabis. The research is published in *CMAJ*, the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.

The new study "adds to the trickle of evidence that cannabis may help some of the patients who are struggling [with pain] at present," Henry McQuay, DM, an emeritus fellow at Balliol College, Oxford University, England, writes in a commentary accompanying the study.

### **Marijuana Relieves Chronic Pain, Research Shows - WebMD**

[www.webmd.com/.../marijuana-relieves-chronic-pain-research-show](http://www.webmd.com/.../marijuana-relieves-chronic-pain-research-show)

Marijuana Relieves Chronic Pain, Research Shows. ... attending a chronic pain clinic use cannabis as part of their pain ... helps arthritis, migraines, and dental pain.

### **Medical Marijuana | Medicinal Cannabis | What Is Medical ...**

[www.arthritistoday.org/.../medical-marijuana.php](http://www.arthritistoday.org/.../medical-marijuana.php)

Research shows cannabis or medical marijuana may help ease arthritis ... Cannabinoids also seem to have a positive impact on some other pain medications. One study, ...

### **Medical Marijuana for Arthritis Pain - Disabled World**

[www.disabled-world.com](http://www.disabled-world.com) > ... > Medical Marijuana

Medical Marijuana for Arthritis Pain ... that have the potential to help reduce and relieve the pain ... Pain - Smoking cannabis reduces pain improves ...

### **Medical Marijuana For Rheumatoid Arthritis?**

[www.huffingtonpost.com/.../08/can-medical-marijuana-help-arthritis...](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../08/can-medical-marijuana-help-arthritis...)

Jun 08, 2011 · ... reported that no studies have linked marijuana use to lung or ... while marijuana may help with pain ... Medical Marijuana For Rheumatoid Arthritis?

### **Marijuana Works to Treat Arthritis Pain | High Times**

[www.hightimes.com/read/marijuana-works-treat-arthritis-pain](http://www.hightimes.com/read/marijuana-works-treat-arthritis-pain)

Dec 10, 2013 · But It Would Help; High ... Edition; Back Issues; News. Marijuana Works to Treat Arthritis Pain. ... largest group using cannabis to treat any ...

### **Arthritis - Medical Marijuana - Americans for Safe Access**

[www.safeaccessnow.org/arthritis\\_booklet](http://www.safeaccessnow.org/arthritis_booklet)

Arthritis Arthritis & Medical Marijuana. A Note from Americans for Safe Access. ... Since I began using medical marijuana, my pain is no longer persistent or ...

### **Study Confirms Marijuana Can Help In Arthritis - Leaf Science**

[www.leafscience.com/.../11/study-confirms-marijuana-can-help-arthritis](http://www.leafscience.com/.../11/study-confirms-marijuana-can-help-arthritis)

Study Confirms Marijuana Can Help In Arthritis ... in the treatment of arthritis.

Recent studiessuggest marijuana compounds may also help manage pain from ...

### **Can Medical Marijuana Help Rheumatoid Arthritis ...**

[www.health.com](http://www.health.com) › Rheumatoid Arthritis

Can Medical Marijuana Help Rheumatoid Arthritis? ... Can Medical Marijuana Help Rheumatoid Arthritis? ... while marijuana may help with pain symptoms, ...

### **The Medical Minute: Can Cannabis Help Repair Arthritic ...**

[www.leafly.com](http://www.leafly.com) › News › Health

... among arthritis sufferers is the use of cannabis to get full ... Can Cannabis Help ... reduce thepain of arthritis." McDougall's research is ...

### **Medical Marijuana Uses & Treatments: Arthritis**

[www.medicalmarijuana.net/uses-and-treatments/arthritis](http://www.medicalmarijuana.net/uses-and-treatments/arthritis)

Medical Marijuana Uses & Treatments: Arthritis. ... these studies involve cannabinoids administered as drugs isolated from marijuana, medicinal use of cannabis by ...



### **Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)**

Ad · [www.ra-rxmedicine.com](http://www.ra-rxmedicine.com)

Find An Oral Rx Treatment Option For Rheumatoid Arthritis.