

Medical Cannabis *Quick* Reference Sheet

Provided for New Mexico Treatment Courts by the
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Eligibility for most treatment courts is predicated upon at least one moderate-to-severe substance use or mental health diagnosis. These diagnoses are often compounded by variables such as co-occurring disorders and trauma, medication management issues, illicit drug use, previous lifetime episodes of sporadic access to treatment and unsupportive and/or unstable living situations, etc.

Establishing and maintaining a solid and sustainable health and wellness approach with program participants is a – if not *the* – primary concern of a treatment court.

Concerning medical cannabis:

- Medical cannabis is legal in New Mexico. The Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act settles the question of whether cannabis can be used for medical purposes where the participant has received certification to do so.
- No blanket prohibition against medical cannabis is appropriate for the New Mexico treatment court population. Even for programs receiving federal funding where strict prohibitions exist, programs should make every effort to provide other options to meet the needs of participants requiring medical cannabis.
- Qualification for medical cannabis use requires the patient to be diagnosed with a debilitating, approved qualifying condition by a medical professional.
- Proof of certification is provided by the NM Department of Health Medical Cannabis Program through a Patient Identification Card, also known as a “medical cannabis card.”
- **If an individual has a legally obtained and valid medical cannabis card, cannabis use does not disqualify a participant from eligibility to enter, progress through, or graduate from a New Mexico treatment court program.**
- Concerns about medical cannabis use should be treated like any other medical intervention, through coordination of care with the participant’s primary care physician or other appropriately licensed medical practitioner.

