

Our Process

Chronic Intractable Pain- By definition, chronic pain must meet 2 criteria:

1. You must currently suffer from the pain.
2. Reasonable attempts to address the condition have failed.
3. A Patient may not receive prescriptions for scheduled pain medications such as opioids or other classes of medications from one physician, and medical marijuana recommendations from another physician.

Medical Records

- You must be able to provide medical records from your treating physician substantiating your qualifying medical diagnoses. If needed, please complete a medical records request form at our office to request a copy of your medical records.
- **Your medical records must be reviewed by our scheduling department prior to scheduling. Your records must also be present for the physician to review at your appointment. If you are an established treating patient at Advanced Pain Institute, we will have your medical records on file. Please note that you will still be required to meet all listed qualifications.**
- The records must state your diagnosis, how long you've had your medical condition, your previous treatments, and your current treatment plan.

Appointment

During this visit, the physician will confirm the patient's qualifying medical diagnosis, discuss symptoms and goals, review medication history including medical Cannabis usage, formulate an individualized treatment plan, provide follow-up care instructions, answer any questions that a patient may have, then submit a medical cannabis recommendation to the dispensary designated or specified (if appropriate).

Recommendation Refills

The State of Louisiana presently limits medical cannabis recommendations to 30 days. If a refill is needed between office visits, please contact the office directly to submit a request for the physician to review. We ask that our patient's pay attention to his/her remaining doses of medication and request a refill at least 1 week in advance of expiration of an existing recommendation.

Bring to your appointment:

- **Government issued Photo ID**

Examples include driver's license, state identification card, military ID card, or passport. The picture of the ID must be an accurate representation of a patient's current appearance.

- **Relevant Medical Records dated within the past 12 months**

Records must be on paper and clearly state the qualifying medical diagnosis for which the medical cannabis is being sought.

Privacy Policy

- We collect protected health information.
- We use your protected health information to provide medical cannabis consultations and recommendations.
- Please contact us for more information about our clinic's privacy practices, should there be further questions we can answer.

Administration

- The product will come as a tincture in a 30cc glass bottle with a dropper. A tincture is an oil or alcohol solvent with cannabis extracted into the liquid
- Tinctures are administered either: Orally-You place the instructed dosage into your mouth and swallow. You should start to feel the effects coming on between 30 to 90 minutes, with a peak maximum effect reached after two to three hours, and last for about 4 to 12 hours, depending on the dose.
- Sublingually- You place the instructed dosage under your tongue and hold for 30 seconds and then swallow. This helps get the medicine into your bloodstream quicker and is a preferred method that will allow you to feel the effects coming on faster and stronger.
- The active compounds in medical cannabis are THC and CBD. The medicinal products available to patients have varying degrees of THC and CBD. Some have mostly THC, others have mostly CBD, still others have approximately equal amounts. Why is this?
- Well despite both THC and CBD being the active compounds in medical cannabis, they both have very different uses. Some medical conditions respond better to THC, others respond better to CBD, and still others respond better to equal amounts.