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“We change laws.”

Modes of Administration and Medical Cannabis Laws

The vast majority of medical cannabis laws allow patients to administer medical cannabis through whatever method works best for them — be it whole plant, tinctures, ointments, oils, or edibles. Allowing innovation is surely one reason the efficacy of certain cannabis oils on intractable seizures came to light.

Some older laws, however, have language that does not clearly allow edibles or extracts, while four recent laws forbid smoking and require approval of certain preparations. In addition, rule-making authorities in New Jersey have made access very difficult. They initially forbade edibles and now allow them only for minors.

Here is an overview of medical cannabis states' policies on modes of administration. MPP recommends allowing patients, in consultation with trained dispensary staff, to decide for themselves which mode of administration is most appropriate.

State	Limit on Administration?	Notes
Alaska	None known	
Arizona	None known; law allows cannabis including “any mixture or preparation thereof.”	A court ruled edibles are allowed under the state law, explaining, “It makes no sense to interpret the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act as allowing people with these conditions to use medical marijuana but only if they take it in one particular form ... Such an interpretation reduces, if not eliminates, medical marijuana as a treatment option for those who cannot take it in plant form, or could receive a greater benefit from an alternative form.”
California	None known	
Colorado	None known	Among the four types of medical marijuana licensees are infused product manufacturers.
Connecticut	Edibles in the form of candy are not allowed.	A Connecticut dispensary’s site notes flowers, concentrates, edibles, and tinctures are all available. Edibles in the form of candy are explicitly prohibited under state law.
Delaware	None known	
Hawaii	Commercially produced edibles are currently not allowed.	A commission will be formed and can recommend allowing edibles.

State	Limit on Administration?	Notes
Illinois	None known	
Louisiana	Inhaled marijuana and “raw or crude” marijuana are prohibited; Board of Pharmacy rules determine what forms of cannabis are allowed	It remains to be seen whether Louisiana’s law will prove workable: It does not include clear protections from state crimes for providers and regulations require doctors to engage in conduct that could put their DEA licenses at risk.
Maine	None known	
Massachusetts	None known	
Maryland	Some forms of edibles may be disallowed.	“Food” produced or sold in Maryland is regulated by the Maryland Office of Food Safety, which has yet to produce regulations for edibles.
Michigan	A court ruled extracts, and thus edibles made from them, are not allowed.	A bill passed the state House in 2014 to allow extracts and edibles, but did not get a Senate vote.
Minnesota	Only allows administration via liquids, oils, and pills. Patients may vaporize oils or liquids. The health commissioner may allow more types of administration, but may not add smoking.	
Montana	A court ruled extracts, and thus edibles made from them, are not allowed.	
Nevada	None known	
New Hampshire	None known	
New Jersey	Edibles are allowed only for children.	Regulations governing edible use for children were issued in March 2015.
New Mexico	None known	
New York	Medical marijuana may not be smoked. Any form of medical marijuana not expressly approved by the health commissioner is prohibited.	
Ohio	Smoking is prohibited. Edibles and extracts will be available, as will raw cannabis..	Raw cannabis and extracts are capped at 35% and 70% THC respectively under the law, but could be restricted further under agency rules. The regulatory authority will determine what types of paraphernalia patients may use.
Oregon	None known	

State	Limit on Administration?	Notes
Pennsylvania	The law prohibits smoking and prevents dispensaries from selling whole plant marijuana and edibles.	Regulations from the Department of Health could allow patient access cannabis flowers and leaves.
Rhode Island	None known	
Vermont	None known	
Washington	None known	
Washington, D.C.	None known	