

**Documentation of Physician Authorization to Engage in the
Medical Use of Marijuana in Washington State**

Patient Name _____ Date of Birth _____

I am a physician licensed in the State of Washington. I have diagnosed the above named patient as having a terminal or debilitating medical condition as defined in RCW 69.51A.010.

I have advised the above named patient about the potential risks and benefits of the medical use of marijuana. I have assessed the above named patient's medical history and medical condition. It is my medical opinion that this patient may benefit from the medical use of marijuana.

Signature of Physician _____

Printed Name of Physician _____

Risks and benefits of medical marijuana

Under Washington state law, the use of medical marijuana is now permissible for some patients with terminal or debilitating medical conditions. The law regulating this (RCW 69.51A) allows physicians to advise patients about the risks and benefits of the medical use of marijuana.

The medical and scientific evidence supporting the use of medical marijuana remains controversial in the medical community. Not all health care providers believe that medical marijuana is safe or effective and some providers feel that it is a dangerous drug.

According to the Washington state law, the medical use of marijuana may benefit patients diagnosed with the following medical conditions: cancer, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), multiple sclerosis, epilepsy or other seizure or spasticity disorders; some types of intractable pain; glaucoma, either acute or chronic; Crohn's disease; hepatitis C with debilitating nausea or intractable pain; or diseases, including anorexia, which result in nausea, vomiting, wasting, appetite loss, cramping, seizures, muscle spasms, or spasticity.

Some of the risks of medical marijuana may include possible long-term effects on the brain in the areas of memory, coordination and cognition; impairment of the ability to drive or operate heavy machinery; respiratory damage; possible lung cancer; and physical or psychological dependence.
