

Illinois Medical Cannabis Law Extended to 2020 – What You Need to Know

On June 30, Gov. Bruce Rauner signed legislation to extend Illinois' medical cannabis program until July 1, 2020. It contains important changes advocated by the Illinois State Medical Society.

The first relates to the physician certification standard. Before, physicians had to state that in their professional opinion the patient would be "likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the medical use of cannabis." Now, a physician only must certify that the patient is under their care and has a qualifying condition.

The second is the requirement for the Illinois Department of Public Health to electronically submit the names of all approved cannabis registrants into Illinois' Prescription Monitoring Program (www.ilpmp.org). This requirement will allow doctors to see whether a patient under their care is already certified for medical cannabis.

The extension also adds two more qualifying conditions for patient certification, including post-traumatic stress disorder and terminal illness in which the patient has less than six months to live.

Other provisions of the new legislation include:

- Patient and caregiver cards are now valid for three years, instead of one.
- Upon renewal of patient and caregiver cards, no fingerprinting is required in some circumstances.
- Minors may have two caregivers.
- The reconstitution of the Medical Cannabis Advisory Board, and a new procedure for accepting patient petitions for the addition of new conditions to the program.

ISMIE's policyholder resources on medical cannabis are currently undergoing review and will be revised to reflect the changes. They are available online at www.ISMIE.com.



New ISMIE Case Study: Patient Privacy

There's never a bad time to remind your fellow medical professionals and office staffers that patient privacy mistakes can be very costly.

From fumbling an ordinary patient records request to the escalating risk of a computerized data breach, "Patient Privacy," the latest installment of ISMIE's Lessons from the Field series, addresses common HIPAA patient privacy situations that if mishandled can easily cost practices and institutions millions of dollars.

ISMIE's Risk Management team authors the Lessons series, which can be found online at www.ISMIE.com/lessons. If you have additional questions on this or any other case study, email riskmanagement@ismie.com or phone 800-782-4767 ext. 3300.

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