Glaucoma: A Qualifying MM Condition

Most people know about the condition that allows them to use medical marijuana, but may not know much about the other qualifying conditions. You may run into someone at a dispensary with a different condition and be curious. With the 2010 ballot initiative, voters approved using marijuana for eight medical conditions and to help treat or manage the symptoms of any disease if the person had any of five specific aggravating factors. In the coming months, we’re going to look at some of the qualifying conditions. This month we’re exploring glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that impact your eyes and vision. A clear fluid flows in and out of the space at the front of the eye, nourishing nearby tissues. Glaucoma causes the fluid to pass through too slowly or to stop draining altogether. As the fluid builds up, the pressure inside the eye increases, causing damage to the optic nerve and vision loss according to the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).

The Medical Center’s website say open angle glaucoma, the most common form of the disease, affects about 3 million Americans and is the leading cause of blindness in the United States. UMMC says certain groups of people are more at risk for glaucoma: African Americans over age 40, everyone over age 60, especially Mexican Americans, people with a family history of glaucoma, those with sedentary lifestyles or who take antihistamines or blood pressure medication.

There is no cure for glaucoma, but early detection can limit the loss of vision. While the most conventional treatments are medications, there are some surgeries and complementary therapies that can be used to help live with glaucoma. The list ranges from eating healthier foods to taking vitamins or other supplements.

In the 1970s, the National Eye Institute (part of the National Institutes of Health) supported studies of marijuana use to help glaucoma. It discontinued the studies because of side effects of marijuana and new FDA-approved medication seemed to work better. In Arizona glaucoma patients can use medical marijuana because of the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act.

News and Updates

PTSD recognized as qualifying condition.

Cycle for adding new qualifying conditions begins.

Common Questions and Resources

This section answers some of your most commonly asked questions.

List of Operating Dispensaries

An updated list of operating dispensaries.
**DID YOU KNOW?**

Oxford Dictionaries has declared *vape* the word of the year for 2014. Vape is a verb meaning to inhale and exhale the vapor produced by an electronic cigarette or similar device. Computer robots searching the web found use of the word “vape” doubled in 2014 compared to 2013.

**FAST FACTS**

**60%**

Twenty-five of the 615 physicians who certified medical marijuana patients in fiscal year 2014 wrote 60% of the certifications.

**PTSD Recognized as Qualifying Medical Condition Starting in January**

Starting January 1, 2015, medical marijuana cardholders can request a physician certification for the palliative care of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). ADHS has revised the physician certification form to include an additional physician attestation that the patient is receiving treatment other than medical marijuana for PTSD. The online qualifying patient application also has been revised to allow patients to select PTSD as a qualifying condition.

**Next Cycle for New Debilitating Conditions Begins**

ADHS will accept petitions to add new debilitating medical conditions to the existing list of debilitating medical conditions beginning Monday, January 26, 2015 through Friday, January 30, 2015 by close of business. Petitions postmarked prior to or after these dates will not be accepted.

For a condition to be considered, all petitions must be sent via U.S. mail only to ADHS; P.O. Box 1900; Phoenix, Arizona 85005.

*The entity's name, mailing address, name of contact individual, telephone number, and email address;*

*The name of the medical condition the entity is requesting be added;*

*A description of the symptoms and other physiological effects experienced by an individual with the medical condition or a treatment of the medical condition that may impair the ability of the individual to accomplish daily living activities;*

*The availability of conventional medical treatments to provide therapeutic or palliative benefit for the medical condition or a treatment for the condition;*

*A summary of evidence that the use of marijuana will provide therapeutic or palliative benefit for the medical condition; and*

*Articles, published in peer-reviewed, scientific journals, reporting the results of research on the effects of marijuana on the medical condition or a treatment of the medical condition supporting why the medical condition should be added. The full article must be submitted (no abstracts).*

ADHS will notify the requester within 30 days that the petition was received. For more information, please visit our website at: [http://www.azdhs.gov/medicalmarijuana/debilitating/](http://www.azdhs.gov/medicalmarijuana/debilitating/)

**QUESTIONS?**

Email m2programsupport@azdhs.gov. Patients can also live chat with the program staff Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The live chat function can be found by visiting the program website, [www.azhealth.gov/medicalmarijuana/](http://www.azhealth.gov/medicalmarijuana/)

For dispensary questions, please email m2dispensaries@azdhs.gov
Common Questions

The Department receives many questions about the Program every day. You can submit any questions you would like answered in the newsletter by emailing m2programsupport@azdhs.gov. Check here for answers to some of the most commonly asked questions.

**QUESTION:**

Shouldn’t my medical insurance plan pay for my medical marijuana?

**ANSWER:**

According to Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §36-2814 of the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act, government or private health insurance providers are not required to repay a patient for any costs associated with his or her medical marijuana treatment.

**Resources**

**Medical Marijuana Program**

Website: [http://www.azhealth.gov/medicalmarijuana/](http://www.azhealth.gov/medicalmarijuana/) (includes chat function)

Email: m2programsupport@azdhs.gov or m2dispensaries@azdhs.gov

Please email m2support@azdhs.gov to be removed from the printed or emailed newsletter lists. Please include your name and date of birth.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**


**Poison Control Hotline**

Phone: 1-800-222-1222
### List of Operating Arizona Licensed Dispensaries—as of 1/1/2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dispensary Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apache Junction</td>
<td>Nature’s Wonder Inc. 68 S. Ironwood Drive</td>
<td>(480) 982-1529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benson</td>
<td>Total Accountability Patient Care, Inc. 226 E. 4th St.</td>
<td>(520) 586-8710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisbee</td>
<td>Natural Relief Clinic Inc. 1191 S. Naco Hwy</td>
<td>(520) 686-8708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Canyon City</td>
<td>Total Accountability Systems I, Inc. DBA: Green Farmacy 34550 S. Old Black Canyon Hwy Ste. 101</td>
<td>(623) 374-5460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullhead City</td>
<td>Valley Healing Group, Inc. 2840 Highway 95, Ste. 422</td>
<td>(928) 758-3830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casa Grande</td>
<td>Medical Pain Relief, Inc. 1860 E. Salk Dr., Ste. B-1</td>
<td>(520) 350-9880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cave Creek</td>
<td>Arizona Natural Selections 6812 E. Cave Creek Rd. #3</td>
<td>(480) 575-1245</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chino Valley</td>
<td>Organica Patient Group Inc. 856 S. State Route 89</td>
<td>(928) 636-5566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clifton</td>
<td>Holistic Patient Wellness Group 211 Chase Creek Road</td>
<td>(928) 432-7212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cochise</td>
<td>Cathy’s Compassion Center 1825 W. Dragoon Road</td>
<td>(866) 291-8797</td>
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<td>Coolidge</td>
<td>The Desert Valley Pharmacy Inc. 1302 W. Industrial Dr. Bldg #7</td>
<td>(520) 723-7710</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cottonwood</td>
<td>Yavapai Herbal Services, Inc. 675 E. State Route 89A</td>
<td>(928) 634-5233</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Mirage</td>
<td>Arizona Cannabis Society LLC 8376 N. El Mirage Rd. Bldg. 2, Ste. 2</td>
<td>(888) 249-2927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eloy</td>
<td>Jamestown Center 3755 W. Houser Rd.</td>
<td>(520) 233-7389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagstaff</td>
<td>Desertview Wellness &amp; Healing Solutions DBA: Green Pharmacy 7121 N. HWY 89</td>
<td>(928) 522-6337</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Mountain Health LLC 1250 S. Plaza Way Ste. A</td>
<td>(928) 774-5467</td>
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<td></td>
<td>RCH Wellness Center LLC 460 N. Switzer Canyon Dr. Suite 100 DBA: Greenhouse of Flagstaff (928) 351-7775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fountain Hills</td>
<td>Sixth Street Enterprises, Inc. DBA: Nature's AZ Medicines Inc. 16913 E. Enterprise Dr.</td>
<td>(480) 420-3135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilbert</td>
<td>Absolute Healthcare Inc. 175 S. Hamilton Pl. Bldg. 4 Ste. 110</td>
<td>(480) 361-0078</td>
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</table>
Glendale

Arizona Organix
5301 W. Glendale Ave. (623) 937-2752

PP Wellness Center
8160 W. Union Hills Dr. Ste A 106 (623) 385-1310

DBA: The Greenhouse

Globe

Globe Farmacy Inc.
200 N. Broad St. (928) 793-4410

Golden Valley

Nonprofit Patient Center
9313 N. US Highway 93 (928) 224-5959

Goodyear

Valley of the Sun Medical Dispensary Inc.
16200 W. Eddie Albert Way (623) 932-3859

Holbrook

Natural Herbal Remedies Inc.
752 Navajo Blvd. (928) 524-2121

Lake Havasu City

High Desert Healing LLC
1691 Industrial Blvd. (928) 453-9333

DBA: Havasu Green

Kingman

CJK Inc.
2095 Northern Avenue (928) 692-0000

DBA: Ultra Health Kingman

Maricopa

Ponderosa Botanical Care Inc.
49237 W. Papago Rd. Ste. 3 (520) 568-7505

DBA: Ponderosa Releaf

Mayer

CSI Solutions
10580 S. State Route 69 (928) 227-2658

DBA: Arizona Grassroots Dispensary

Mesa

The Giving Tree Wellness Center of Mesa Inc.
938 E. Juanita Ave. (480) 272-9888

Health For Life, Inc.
7343 S. 89th Pl. (480) 888-0247

Soothing Options, Inc.
3321 N. Reseda Circle Ste. 50 & 61 (480) 830-8251

DBA: Health For Life, Mesa North

Kind Meds, Inc.
2152 S. Vineyard Road, Ste. 120 (480) 686-9302

Mohave Valley

Herbal Assist Inc.
6870 S. HWY 95 Ste. 251 (928) 768-4665

DBA: Mohave Green

Oracle

Bloom Copper Country
1880 W. American Avenue (520) 576-6088

Oro Valley

Catalina Hills Botanical Care, Inc.
12152 N. Rancho Vistoso Blvd. C-140 (520) 797-3053

DBA: Catalina Hills Care
The Kind Relief Inc. 1500 Coppermine Rd. (928) 645-0222

Parker
High Desert Healing LLC 3956 Moovalya Estates Dr. Ste. A-C (928) 667-0000
DBA: Parker Green

Payson
Desert Medical Campus Inc. 200 N. Tonto (928) 474-2420
DBA: Uncle Herb's Health Center

Peoria
Green Desert Patient Center of Peoria 9275 W. Peoria Av. (623) 878-5954
DBA: Arizona Natural Selections

Phoenix
AD, LLC 2630 W. Indian School Rd. (623) 321-5010
DBA: Urban Greenhouse
Arizona Natures Wellness 14 S. 41st Pl. (602) 396-5757
DBA: Bloom Dispensary Phoenix
AZ Compassionate Care, Inc. 1613 N. 40th St. (602) 275-1279
DBA: TruMed
Encanto Green Cross Dispensary 2620 W. Encanto Blvd. (888) 633-7411
Horizon the Health Center 10040 N. Metro Parkway West (602) 870-8700
Herbal Wellness Center, Inc. 4126 W. Indian School Rd. (602) 635-3502
AAA Cinbad, Inc. 21035 N. Cave Creek Rd. Ste, C5 (602) 842-5790
DBA: The Holistic Center
Sixth Street Enterprises, Inc. 2439 W. McDowell Rd. (480) 420-3145
DBA: Nature's AZ Medicines Inc.
Sunflower Meds 10827 S. 51st St. (480) 350-7624
PARC 4201 E. University Dr. (602) 437-1645
Phoenix Relief Center Inc. 6330 S. 35th Ave. Ste 104 (602) 276-3401
The Giving Tree Center of North Phoenix Inc. 21617 N. 9th Ave. (623) 242-9080

Prescott
203 Organix, LLC 123 Merritt Street (928) 778-5900
DBA: SWC Prescott

Prescott Valley
Yavapai Herbal Services Inc. 6287 E. Copper Hill Drive, Suite A (928) 227-2441

Quartzsite
Wickenburg Alternative Medicine LLC 511 E. Main St. (928) 927-4200

Rio Rico
Greenmed, Inc. 1115 Circulo Mercado (520) 281-1587

Safford
Natural Remedy Patient Center 1362 Thatcher Blvd. (928) 432-6959

Sahuarita
Broken Arrow Herbal Center, Inc. 1732 W. Commerce Point Pl. (520) 289-8030
DBA: Ultra Health Green Valley
<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scottsdale</td>
<td>Monarch Wellness Centers, Inc.</td>
<td>8729 E. Manzanita Drive</td>
<td>(480) 991-3752</td>
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<td>Sedona</td>
<td>Zonacare</td>
<td>465 Jordan Rd.</td>
<td>(928) 282-8122</td>
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<td>Show Low</td>
<td>Green Hills Patient Center, Inc.</td>
<td>3191 W. White Mountain Rd, Ste. A</td>
<td>(928) 537-4888</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Vista</td>
<td>Phytotherapeutics of Tucson</td>
<td>1633 S. Highway 92, Suite 7</td>
<td>(520) 335-8570</td>
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<td>Springerville</td>
<td>Natural Relief Clinic Inc. DBA: Green Farmacy</td>
<td>334 E. Main Street</td>
<td>(928) 239-8493</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun City</td>
<td>White Mountain Health Center</td>
<td>9240 W. Bell Road, Ste. 108</td>
<td>(623) 374-4141</td>
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<td>Superior</td>
<td>Superior Organics</td>
<td>750 S. Belmont Ave.</td>
<td>(520) 689-1960</td>
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<td>Surprise</td>
<td>All Greens Inc.</td>
<td>13431 W. Westgate Dr. Suite #103</td>
<td>(623) 214-0801</td>
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<td>Taylor</td>
<td>Compassionate Care of AZ, Inc. DBA: Kompo Care</td>
<td>Crossroads of Airport Loop &amp; Pinedale Rd.</td>
<td>(928) 536-5151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tempe</td>
<td>Salubrious Wellness Clinic Inc. DBA: SWC Tempe</td>
<td>2009 E. 5th St. Ste. 11</td>
<td>(480) 245-6751</td>
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<td>Verde Dispensary DBA: Harvest of Tempe</td>
<td>710 W. Elliot Rd. Ste. 102</td>
<td>(480) 777-2100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>Earth's Healing Inc. DBA: Southern AZ Integrated Therapies</td>
<td>2075 E. Benson Highway</td>
<td>(520) 373-5779</td>
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<td>Green Medicine DBA: Southern AZ Integrated Therapies</td>
<td>112 S. Kolb Rd.</td>
<td>(520) 886-1003</td>
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<td>PurpleMed Inc. DBA: Bloom Dispensary Tucson</td>
<td>1010 S. Freeway Suite 130</td>
<td>(520) 398-7338</td>
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<td>Rainbow Collective Inc. DBA: Bloom Dispensary Tucson</td>
<td>4695 N. Oracle Rd. Ste #117</td>
<td>(520) 293-3315</td>
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<td>The Green Halo LLC DBA: Desert Bloom Releaf Center</td>
<td>7710 S. Wilmot Rd.</td>
<td>(520) 664-2251</td>
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<td>Copper State Herbal Center, Inc. DBA: The Apothecary</td>
<td>6205 N. Travel Center Drive</td>
<td>(520) 395-0230</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Medmar Tanque Verde, LLC DBA: Desert Bloom Releaf Center</td>
<td>8060 E. 22nd St. Ste. 108</td>
<td>(520) 886-1760</td>
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</table>
Rainbow Collective Inc.  4120 E. Speedway Blvd.  (520) 207-2753
    DBA: The Prime Leaf
Verde Wellness Center, Inc.  221 E. 6th Street, Ste. 105  (520) 838-0492
    DBA: The Downtown Dispensary
Nature Med Inc.  5390 W. Ina Rd.  (520) 620-9123
The Herbal Pharmacy of Central Arizona, Inc.  10134 N. Oracle Road, Ste. 170  (520) 955-9233

Wickenburg
    MMJ Apothecary  1175 W. Wickenburg Way Ste. 4  (928) 684-8880

Williams
    Cannabis Research Group Inc.  324 E. Railroad Avenue  (928) 635-9966
    DBA: Route 66 Wellness Center

Winslow
    The Medicine Room, LLC  2015 W. 3rd Street  (928) 852-4169

Youngtown
    AAA Medical Marijuana Dispensary LLC  11200 W. Michigan Ave. Ste 5  (623) 444-5977
    DBA: Swell Farmacy

Yuma
    Jamestown Center  4340 E. 32nd Street  (928) 920-7778