

I am a 65 year old lady with arthritis, osteoarthritis as well as degenerative disc disorder. I also have fibromyalgia. Consequently I have a lot of pain and sleep issues. Normal sleep aids and pain meds cause some bad side effects that my body can't handle. My doctor tried me on medical marijuana, pill form, and it helped me out a lot. Because fibromyalgia causes my muscles to knot up, and just the pain of the arthritis does too, the medical marijuana helped keep me relaxed which in turn eased the pain of tight muscles and the frustrations of my conditions.

Years ago I smoked marijuana for the same reason but, of course, being illegal I had to go to an outside source and take my chances. I did find someone whom I could trust, but being a very ill person himself, he passed away and I had no more source. Being my age it's not very easy to "go out looking" again. Consequently I went for about 6 years without which set me back physically again. Thank goodness for the great physician I found who was modern enough to give the meds a try. Then I turned 65 and went onto Medicare with a plan F supplemental insurance. But they won't pay for it stating that I have to have either cancer or HIV. My doctor appealed numerous times and got nowhere because they won't recognize its quality for pain management, sleep deprivation, etc.

This is an issue for so many people and it isn't getting any easier. The retail cost for the medical marijuana pill, generic brand, is over \$500 a month so obviously I cannot afford to buy it on my own. It's about time these insurance companies and politicians get it together and allow us to feel better. If they will allow alcohol, which does a lot of physical damage to people, then what's the problem with allowing something that actually helps people without destroying their bodies with various diseases etc. from using something like alcohol because of depression and angst? I personally don't drink, and will not start, because I'm smart enough to know that it does nothing more than the pain killers that are FDA approved and that is merely mask the pain and confuse the brain to the point of not being able to tell what's going on.

Thank you,

Patricia Holland