

**Ending the Epidemic Task Force  
Committee Recommendation  
CR37**

---

**Recommendation Title: Ensuring Adequate Implementation of the  
Compassionate Care Act**

- 1. For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? 2**
  
- 2. Proposed Recommendation:** In June of 2014, the New York State (NYS) legislature passed a medical marijuana bill that will make medical cannabis available to patients with a number of serious illnesses, including HIV. The program is fairly narrow and restrictive and gives broad discretion to the Commissioner of Health in implementing the program, which should be operational by January of 2016. Given the potential role that cannabis can play in adherence, we want to ensure that qualified HIV/AIDS patients have access to this medication. Therefore, we recommend the Commissioner of Health:
  - Consider the cultural competency of dispensary owners and workers when granting licenses to industry groups. Dispensaries should be prepared and competent to meet the unique needs of patients living with HIV/AIDS;
  - Ensure access to medicine regardless of income, including provisions to reduce and/or help cover the costs of registration fees, medicine, and any needed equipment; and
  - Ensure the availability of enough high-quality medicine to meet patient demand, including a sufficient number of producers and dispensaries located throughout the state.

**List of key individuals, stakeholders, or populations who would benefit from this recommendation**

- People living with HIV/AIDS
- All other persons with eligible conditions as defined by the Compassionate Care Act

**List of measures that would assist in monitoring impact**

- Number of persons living with HIV/AIDS in need accessing this medication
- Number of producers and dispensaries to meet the need
- Oversight by the Commissioner of Health and New York State Department of Health



## Footnotes or References

<http://www.compassionatecareny.org/wp-content/uploads/Summary-of-New-Yorks-New-Medical-Marijuana-Law.pdf?81fb15>

[http://norml.org/pdf\\_files/NORML\\_Clinical\\_Applications\\_HIV.pdf](http://norml.org/pdf_files/NORML_Clinical_Applications_HIV.pdf)

3. **Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?** Permitted under current law.
4. **Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?** Within the next year.
5. **Please list the TF numbers of the original recommendations that contributed to this current version:** TF53.

