



## ***Being Here for Your Business is Our Business***

*The Chehardy Sherman Williams Healthcare Practice Group is constantly monitoring the way the COVID-19 Pandemic is affecting the industry.*



## ***Louisiana Expands Patient Access to Medical Marijuana***

Marijuana Effective August 1, 2020, any physician licensed by and in good standing with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to practice medicine in Louisiana may recommend medical marijuana to any patient suffering from an expanded list of "debilitating medical conditions" with whom he or she shares a bona fide doctor-patient relationship and in the "sincere judgment of the physician", believes that therapeutic cannabis may be helpful to the patient's condition or symptoms. Prior to this expansion, a physician wishing to recommend medical marijuana was required to apply for and receive a Therapeutic Marijuana Registration Permit with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; such a permit will no longer be required. The definition of "debilitating medical condition," which was previously limited to 16 specific conditions, has now been expanded to include the following, additional conditions:

**Any of the following neurodegenerative diseases and conditions:**

- Alzheimer's disease;
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis;
- Huntington's disease;
- Lewybodydementia;
- Motor neuron disease;
- Parkinson's disease;
- Spinal muscular atrophy;
- Traumatic brain injury;
- A concussion diagnosed by a physician;
- Chronic pain associated with fibromyalgia;
- Chronic pain associated with sickle cell disease;
- Any condition for which a patient is receiving hospice care or palliative care; and

***...a catch all provision:***

Any condition not otherwise specified in this subparagraph that a physician, in his medical opinion, considers debilitating to an individual patient and is qualified through his medical education and training to treat.

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