

# MEDICAL CANNABIS

The Board of Trustees are pleased to announce to the membership that medical cannabis will be a reimbursable expense for certain pre-determined medical conditions for all members and eligible dependents subject to the eligibility provisions of the Trust Funds.

To be considered for reimbursement, medical cannabis must be prior authorized and approved by the insurer and be prescribed by a licensed healthcare practitioner to treat one of the six following conditions:

- Neuropathic/Chronic Pain
- Spasticity
- Palliative Care
- Spinal Cord injury
- Nausea/vomiting from chemotherapy treatments
- Anorexia

For information on prior authorization, please contact the LiUNA Local 183 Trust Administration office at 416-240-7487.

## Benefit Maximum Amount

The Plan will provide coverage up to a maximum of \$2,000.00 per member and each eligible dependent per calendar year.

The Plan will limit the eligible amount to a maximum of a 30-day supply per initial order or refill.

The Plan will not provide reimbursement for any expenses associated with recreational cannabis or cannabis prescribed for any service not listed above or do not have a PIN number assigned.

## What is the difference between THC and CBD

THC is the active ingredient in cannabis that gives the plant many of its psychoactive and euphoric effects. CBD is an active but non intoxicating or generally sedative cannabinoid.



## The Chronic Pain Triad & Medical Cannabis

Its three elements are the basis for most chronic pain, intense pain, mental health, wellness and sleep quality.

These interconnected elements can significantly affect a person's quality of life. A high level of pain can take a significant toll on mental health and the quality of sleep.

Medical cannabis has the potential to bring relief, with less risk of addiction or dependency than many opioids. Less Harmful. Less Pain.

## How do I use medical cannabis?

The most common methods of consumption include vaporizing and/or oral consumption of an oil or tincture.

Typically, healthcare or medical practitioners never recommend smoking cannabis because it produces many of the same toxic compounds found in cigarette smoke and can harm the lungs as opposed to consuming it via alternative methods.

Vaporization uses an internal element to heat the cannabis to a temperature which is hot enough to turn the active compounds into a vapor without generating the undesirable by-products of smoke.

Oral ingestion is favoured by most medical practitioners. This method of consumption tends to provide deeper, longer-lasting physical sensations throughout the body but takes longer for the effects to be felt.

Partnering with Starseed Medicinal Inc., members and eligible dependents will be able to take advantage of preferred pricing, free consultation and electronic claim reimbursement.

## The Starseed System™

The Starseed System™ simplifies the dialogue around strength and dosage by categorizing medical cannabis according to THC and CBD levels and allowing healthcare practitioners to recommend strains to their patients with confidence.

DRIED CANNABIS				CANNABIS OIL		
<b>GREEN STAR 1</b>	<b>GREEN STAR 2</b>	<b>GREEN STAR 3</b>	<b>GREEN STAR 4</b>	<b>BLUE STAR 1</b>	<b>BLUE STAR 2</b>	<b>BLUE STAR 3</b>
CBD up to 17% THC up to 2%	CBD up to 12% THC up to 12%	CBD up to 2% THC up to 16%	CBD up to 2% THC up to 27%	CBD up to 20% THC up to 2%	CBD up to 12% THC up to 12%	CBD up to 2% THC up to 20%

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## How to Register with Starseed Medicinal Inc.

To become a registered client with Starseed Medicinal Inc., you must fully complete a Medical Document from a registered Health Care Practitioner. You will also be required to fill out a Registration Application which can be completed online directly on the Starseed website.

Once you are registered with Starseed you will receive an official Starseed Medicinal patient card to be used when ordering your eligible medicinal cannabis.



### Registration

A healthcare practitioner will be required to recommend that the member and/or eligible dependents would be a candidate for medical cannabis. The member should contact a Starseed Customer Service Representative (via phone or website) to fill in some basic information and the Starseed representative will then forward the registration form along with the contact information to North Star Wellness Clinic.



### Scheduling an Appointment

Once the registration form is complete the Starseed representative will help schedule an appointment with a North Star Wellness Clinic physician or nurse practitioner for an assessment. The member can also complete this process online and schedule a telemedicine appointment at their convenience.



### Appointment

A physician or nurse practitioner from the North Star Wellness Clinic will review the medical history, assess and examine the member or eligible dependent and determine suitability for medical cannabis treatment. The physician or nurse practitioner may then provide the medical authorization for the purchase of medical cannabis.



### Prior Authorization

After the physician or nurse practitioner authorizes medical cannabis, a North Star Wellness counselor will forward a prior authorization request to Great-West Life to confirm the treatment prescribed is for 1 of the 6 eligible conditions under the Plan. Great-West Life will then contact the North Star Wellness counselor once a decision has been issued. All prior authorizations will be valid for 365 days from date of approval.



### Initial Consultation

After prior authorization is received, the North Star Wellness counselor will then advise the patient about cannabis use, assist with strain selection and registration with Starseed Medicinal, explain the ordering process with Starseed and provide any additional information and assistance. Initial order would be placed for the patient and delivered by courier which must be signed for by the member.



### Reimbursement

Once Starseed Medicinal Inc. receives the prior authorization approval, an electronic claim submission will be made from Starseed Medicinal Inc. for reimbursement by the Plan in accordance with the benefit maximum and eligibility provisions.



### Re-Ordering

The member would contact by phone or email Starseed Medicinal Inc. directly and place the refill order. All orders are delivered by courier and must be signed by the member.



### Reassessment

Before the initial prior authorization period expires (365 days from the initial assessment), the member would contact a North Star Wellness counselor to arrange a follow-up appointment with a Clinic physician or nurse practitioner to reassess the members condition, and if required submit an updated prior authorization request to Great-West Life. A healthcare practitioner will be required to recommend that the member and/or eligible dependents would be a candidate for medical cannabis. The member should contact a Starseed Customer Service Representative (via phone or website) to fill in some basic information and the Starseed representative will then forward the registration form along with the contact information to North Star Wellness Clinic.