



Cannabis Education, Research and Advocacy

Use cannabis responsibly.

If you medicate, then wait.

Most cannabis experts agree that THC, as only one of the active ingredients in cannabis, can cause side effects that may affect driving in some people, including drowsiness, decreased reaction time, and distraction. However, the truth is that these side effects are minor, and most patients can compensate for them and drive safely.

The length of time a patient will have to wait after they medicate depends on many factors. But once a patient get used to the effects of THC, they are likely to be able to drive safely.

Type of Cannabis	Time of Onset	Total Duration of Symptoms
Dried Herb (smoked or vaporized)	2 to 10 minutes	1 to 4 hours
Cannabis Food Preparations	30 minutes to 2 hours	4 to 12 hours
Tinctures	10 - 30 minutes	2 to 4 hours
Topical Treatment	No psychoactive effects	n/a

The caution statement on Marinol (synthetic THC approved by the FDA) reads:

"Patients receiving treatment with Marinol capsules should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely."

ALCOHOL CAUTION: Alcohol has been proven to be very impairing. Alcohol may also intensify the effects of cannabis and other drugs, so please use extreme caution.

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The Cannabis Therapy Institute does not support or promote driving while impaired on any substance. We believe an educational campaign based on the real effects of cannabis would be of best benefit to all Colorado citizens.