Today’s piece was prepared by Carolyn Craig, MS-4, based on a WPRI story

[Medical Marijuana Approved in Rhode Island for Children, Adults with Autism](https://www.wpri.com/community/health/medical-marijuana-approved-in-ri-for-children-adults-with-autism/1528728479).

On October 16th 2018, The Rhode Island Department of Health approved a petition which would allow parents to permit use of medical marijuana (pharmaceutic grade forms of pure cannabidiol [**CBD**] only) to treat children with autism spectrum disorders [**ASD**] after a hearing two months earlier, where parents argued that autism qualifies as a “debilitating medical condition.” The Department of Health’s decision cites various requirements pertaining to the appropriate prescription of CBD, including consultation with child psychiatric and developmental pediatric specialists as well as follow-up assessments at least three months after starting CBD usage. The article sites the website Mothers Advocating Medical Marijuana as listing Rhode Island as one of 8 states in total that list autism as a qualifying condition for treatment with medical marijuana. According to the state of Washington website, Washington State does not consider Autism Spectrum Disorder a qualifying diagnosis. This article presented a positively skewed perspective, largely supportive of the use of CBD to help with autism. It did not elaborate on the symptoms of ASD that medical marijuana was intended to treat, or what side effects could incur with chronic CBD use. It did not discus alternative treatments or address why CBD was being considered for use, it simply assumed a background level of knowledge regarding the neurochemical function of CBD and a general understanding that something about autism necessitated treatment with it.

**RESOURCES ON AUTISM & MEDICAL MARIJUANA:**

[Association for Science in Autism Treatment](https://asatonline.org/) *Information for families on current scientific basis of given treatments for symptoms associated with ASD*

[WA State Dep’t of Health: Medical Marijuana Qualifying Conditions](https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Marijuana/MedicalMarijuana/PatientInformation/QualifyingConditions)

*Information to families on current medical conditions approved in WA State for with medical marijuana treatment*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!