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## Rare disease or not, Colorado teen can't have medical pot at school, not even a lozenge



Medical marijuana samples are tested at a Denver lab that provides the service to some growers and dispensaries. (Ed Andrieski / Associated Press)

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Medical marijuana

By Mary Forgione, Tribune Health  
*February 10, 2011 | 4:13 p.m.*

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A Colorado teen with a rare neurological disease wants to do two things: Take the medical marijuana he needs to control his seizures and attend high school. Sounds simple, but, of course, it's anything but.

The drama playing out between the student and the school likely has little to do with the boy's disease -- described as diaphragmatic and axial myoclonus -- and more to do with the zero-tolerance policy regarding medical marijuana.

### About the Writers

- Eryn Brown
- Tami Dennis
- Melissa Healy
- Karen Kaplan
- Amina Khan
- Thomas H. Maugh II
- Rosie Mestel
- Shari Roan
- Jeannine Stein

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The [Colorado Independent](#) reported that the teen, whose name was not released, has been prescribed marijuana lozenges to control attacks that come on without warning. The Colorado Springs school district says the student can attend school – as long as he doesn't take the medication. As of Thursday, the paper reports, the district also said it must abide by a state law that forbids possession or use of medical marijuana on school grounds. Note too that Colorado is a state that allows the use of medical marijuana.

So why does the student need the drug? The boy's dad, Shan Moore, described his son's condition as being "like hiccups on steroids," according to the paper. He said the marijuana lozenges help relieve spasms that can last up to 24 hours.

The National Institutes of Health describes [myoclonus](#) as a kind of hiccup or "sleep start" run amok. It says: "When more widespread, myoclonus may involve persistent, shock-like contractions in a group of muscles. Myoclonic jerking may develop in people with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Myoclonic jerks commonly occur in persons with epilepsy, a disorder in which the electrical activity in the brain becomes disordered and leads to seizures."

The issue likely will get kicked up to the state level as activists and family members have been petitioning state legislators for help. And it likely will become a bigger media story too.

If you don't have a position on medical marijuana, fine. But check out [ProCon.org](#)'s exercise in rational exploration of the topic. It's enlightening.

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**jackback52** at 5:31 PM February 11, 2011

everyone seems to think this is open and shut. what happens if he's attacked for his meds, what if he hands out even one piece out to a friend. no one here can guarantee that he'll be left alone at school, especially with that drug. after all isn't "420" associated with high school zero tolerance is just that, zero tolerance. if the school shows even a bit of tolerance, then it wouldn't be zero tolerance.

people seem to think that they can use pot anywhere. I remember when you could smoke anywhere too.

[Southern California Moments »](#)

keep pushing, eventually somebody else will push back.

**Cindy F** at 4:10 PM February 11, 2011  
The United States is officially a FAILED COUNTRY!

**gaucho420** at 3:35 PM February 11, 2011  
I wouldn't have said anything and let him take it. Kids now-a-days can get in trouble for something as stupid as an Advil. So Medical MJ? Just stay quiet next time, its not like anyone would know what the lozenge is.

Hey Radelta! SUCK IT!



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