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### Despite lawmakers' opposition, smokable medical pot being sold



Michael Van Sicker, Tampa Bay Times

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*From the News Service of Florida's Dara Kam:*

Even while Florida lawmakers have insisted they do not want patients to smoke pot, one of the state's seven licensed medical-marijuana vendors on Tuesday began selling whole-flower cannabis.

Florida law bans patients from smoking the substance, but doesn't prohibit vendors from selling marijuana buds meant for use in vaporizers --- but which also can be smoked in joints, pipes or other delivery devices.

Trulieve, one of seven licensed marijuana operators in Florida, started selling the whole-flower product on Tuesday, just days after lawmakers failed to reach agreement on a measure to carry out a voter-approved constitutional amendment legalizing marijuana for patients with a broad swath of debilitating conditions.

Trulieve CEO Kim Rivers told The News Service of Florida on Wednesday her company has sold whole-leaf products in different forms --- all designed to be ingested by vaporizers --- for nearly a year. Those products, however, were ground up, unlike the new bud-like product that can be smoked.

Quincy-based Trulieve's new product, first sold on Tuesday, comes in canisters designed for use with vaporizer pens. But patients can easily use the substance in other ways, such as in joints, bongs or pipes --- consumption methods off-limits under state law.

Rivers said whole-leaf products are critical for patients seeking the "entourage effect" that results from consumption of whole-flower marijuana, as opposed to processed cannabis products, such as oils or other derivatives.

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