

Obtaining a Medical Cannabis Card in the State of Maryland

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MMCC
MARYLAND
MEDICAL
CANNABIS
COMMISSION

Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission

State Oversight Commission



Legislative History

2013

MD GA created
MMCC for
investigational
use of medical
cannabis

2014

Medical
cannabis
legalized in
MD with HB
881

July 1, 2023

Recreational
cannabis
legal in MD.

2014

Authorization to
register growers,
processors, Certify
physician, dentists,
nurse midwives

Dec 1, 2017

Products on
shelves

Patient Requirements/Processes to Obtain Medical Cannabis



Qualifying Conditions to Become a Cannabis Patient in Maryland

- Cachexia (wasting syndrome)
- Anorexia
- Severe, debilitating, or chronic pain
- Severe nausea
- Seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy
- Severe and persistent muscle spasms
- Multiple sclerosis
- PTSD
- Crohn's disease
- Alzheimer's
- Cancer
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS



Patient Requirements/Processes to Obtain Medical Cannabis



- Must live in State of Maryland
- HCP recommends for qualifying medical condition
- Must register application through the Maryland Cannabis Commission (State oversight Agency)
- Online application – need valid email address
- Need valid id (drivers license, State issued id, Military id, US Passport)
- An electronic recent photo must be submitted
- Once approved **MUST** visit an approved Health Care Provider
 - HCP will provide a valid certificate for patient to take to dispensary
 - HCP needs to recertify patient yearly
- Then, and only then, can you purchase cannabis from a LICENSED DISPENSARY



Patient FAQ on Medical Cannabis



Amounts

Patient limited to combination of 120grams of flower or 36 grams of THC in a 30 day period.



Certification Time line

Certifications must be used within 120 days or become null and void



Provider limit

Patient may have only 1 provider and 1 written recommendation



Patient recertification

Patient must renew with provider once every 365 days & recertify with MCA every 3 years



Caregiver

Patient may only select up to 2 Caregivers

Caregiver Requirements Serving Adult Patients:



- Caregivers, once registered with the MMCC , can purchase medical cannabis from a licensed dispensary on behalf of the patient
 - Must be 21 years of age
 - Register with the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission(online only)
 - Receive approval
 - Purchase an ID card for \$50
 - Once approved, Patient must go on their portal and designate a Caregiver
 - In case of a minor patient, the parents or legal guardians and 2 others can be registered as Caretakers
 - One can serve as a Caretaker for up to 5 patients
 - Must renew registration every 2 years



Provider Responsibilities:



Eligibility

- Physician, physician assistant, podiatrist, dentist, nurse practitioner, or nurse midwife
- In good standing with the respective Maryland State Board

Requirements

- Establish a bona fide relationship with the patient
- The patient's condition must be severe
- Other medical treatments must be proven ineffective
- The symptoms must reasonably be expected to be relieved by the use of medical cannabis

Educational Resources

- The provider is encouraged to attend the 2.5 hour Maryland course offered online
- .5 CME credit
- Assessment quiz

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES TO ACCESS:

AFFORDABILITY

- No coverage by health insurance
- Out of pocket costs of registration & cannabis may be prohibitive

TECH LIMITATIONS

- Registration, provider lists and dispensary locations are all online.
- Patients may have limited tech abilities to access sites and complete tasks

STIGMA OF USE

- Patient's current HCP may not be supportive of cannabis use
- Patient may not be aware of all clinical evidence (EBM) for disease states

ACCESS TO QUALIFIED PROVIDER

- Patients may be unaware of how to identify a licensed Provider who can recommend a treatment plan using medical cannabis



Solutions To Improve Access



AFFORDABILITY

- Potential for Payers to cover cannabis on insurance formularies – continued advocacy
- Discounts given on registration and product for Veterans and Seniors



TECH LIMITATIONS

- MMCC could identify volunteers to help with online registration and processes
- Patients need to identify advocate (family, friend or caregiver) to help navigate process



STIGMA OF USE

- Medical professionals need Professional education on benefits of medical cannabis and EBM.
- Could start with local societies like MSRD(Md Society of Rheumatologists)
- Pt education and awareness programs through media and patient advocacy groups



ACCESS TO QUALIFIED PROVIDER

- MMCC needs to make provider list more accessible- possibly sent directly to pts.
- Lists could be sent out to all primary care providers to share with their patients

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START LOW &
GO SLOW

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KEY RESOURCES:

Maryland Cannabis Administration Website

<https://mmcc.maryland.gov/Pages/home.aspx>

Thank you

