

Medical marijuana authorization process

The decision to use marijuana for medical purposes is best made between the patient and their health care professional. Current regulations define a qualifying patient as someone who is a Washington resident, who has been diagnosed with a [qualifying condition](#) and has a medical marijuana authorization from their health care professional - RCW [69.51A.010](#).

The general process to becoming a medical marijuana patient in Washington is outlined below:

- Step 1: Schedule an appointment with your health care professional.
- Step 2: Obtain a medical marijuana authorization from your health care professional.
- Step 3: Visit a medically-endorsed store to get a medical marijuana card ([see store list \(PDF\)](#)).
- Step 4: Use the card to purchase products sales tax free.
- Step 5: Repeat steps 1 - 3 to renew both the medical marijuana authorization and card before expiration.

For additional information and resources, see the program's [Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#) for common questions asked by other patients.

Figure 1: Recognition card



Available resources

Patient brochures. A series of printable brochures intended to help guide patients through medical marijuana laws and authorization process.

Authorization form guidelines. Includes helpful information about the authorization form and marijuana laws and rules.

Authorization database training. Walks new users through the registration process and provides step-by-step instructions on how to register and create recognition cards for patients and their designated provider.

Medically-endorsed retail store list. A list of medically-endorsed stores so patients know where to go to get registered or to speak with a certified consultant.

Communications. When medically-endorsed retail store staff register in SecureAccess Washington (SAW) to use the medical marijuana authorization system service (MMJAS), their email is automatically added to the program's end-user distribution list to receive important program updates and system alerts.

All publications may be printed and used by retail stores. To see a list of available publication, visit www.doh.wa.gov/medicalmarijuana, click on "Print Materials."

Medical Marijuana Program

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A Marijuana Retailer's Guide to the Medical Marijuana Endorsement



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What is a medical endorsement?

Stores interested in serving the cannabis patient community may add a medical endorsement to their existing marijuana retail license at no cost. A medical endorsement:

- allows a marijuana retailer to sell marijuana for medical use to qualifying patients and their designated providers.
- allows a retailer, at their discretion, to provide marijuana at no charge to qualifying patients and designated providers

See RCW [69.50.375](#); [378](#); WAC [314-55-080](#).

Staff and Training.

- ✓ must have a Medical Marijuana Certified Consultant on staff with a valid credential issued by the Department of Health.
- ✓ verify, register and issue medical marijuana patient recognition cards
- ✓ ensure all employees are trained on use of the medical marijuana database, recognition of valid recognition cards and WAC 246-70 compliant product.

Restricted Entry. Ages 18-20 are allowed only with valid medical registration card; ages under 18 are allowed only with valid registration card and designated provider.

Inventory. Carry [WAC 246-70](#) compliant products easily identified by these logos:



Apply for a medical endorsement

Complete and submit the [Application for Added Medical Marijuana Endorsement](#) to the address listed on the application, or you can email it to mmjendorsement@lcb.wa.gov. Once approved, the WSLCB will mail an official medical logo that can be placed in the window as a symbol of endorsement.

For more information related to licensing, please visit lcb.wa.gov or contact the Licensing Division at 360-664-1600.

Recordkeeping and taxes

Recognition Card Fees. RCW 69.51A.230 requires Medically Endorsed Marijuana Retail stores to collect a \$1 fee for each medical marijuana recognition card created and to remit those fees to the Department of Health. The Department of Health collects fees on a quarterly basis.

Marijuana retailers shall not charge sales tax on the \$1 recognition card fee. According to the Department of Revenue, the marijuana retailer is not to charge sales tax on the \$1 medical marijuana recognition card fee.

Recordkeeping. Marijuana retailers with medical endorsement must keep records and documents that establish exemption eligibility (WAC [458-20-254](#)). [See Special Notice: Sales and use tax exemption for marijuana retailers with a medical endorsement on page 3.](#)

Medical marijuana certified consultant

To become a certified consultant, an individual must complete a 20-hour training.

Per WAC [246-72-030](#) certified consultant may assist patients with:

- Database registration and medical marijuana card creation;
- Selection of products sold at the store that may benefit the patient's qualifying condition;
- Describing the risks and benefits of products and other items sold at the store;
- Describing risks and benefits of various methods of administration, encouraging methods other than smoking;
- Safe handling and storage of products, including strategies to reduce access to minors; and,
- Instruction and demonstration about proper use and application of a product.

See [Medical Marijuana Consultant Certification Program](#) for more details.

Medical marijuana authorization database

A medical endorsement allows retail store staff access to the medical marijuana authorization database (MMJAS) to:

- verify a qualifying patient and designated provider's medical marijuana recognition card during the sale process; and,
- enter a qualifying patient or designated provider into the database to create and issue a recognition card.