



Medical marijuana laws and rules

The Cannabis Patient Protection Act was signed into law April 2015 and went into full effect on July 1, 2016.

This law aligns licensing and regulation of all marijuana producers, processors, retail stores and patient cooperatives under the oversight of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLC).

The Washington State Department of Health manages the medical marijuana database system and credentialing of medical marijuana consultants who work in medically endorsed marijuana stores.

Read the specific laws and rules on the Washington State Legislature web site:

- **RCW 69.51A**
- **Chapter 246-71 WAC**
- **Chapter 246-72 WAC**



Healthcare practitioner access to database

Authorizing healthcare practitioners may access the database system to see the list of patients they have authorized. They may revoke any authorization and its corresponding card, if necessary.

Non-authorizing practitioners who are allowed to prescribe or dispense controlled substances have the option to search the database by the patient's name and date of birth to review the patient's healthcare information.

Because the database is voluntary for adults, not all authorized patients may be in the system.

A patient's guide to...

Medical Marijuana Authorization

Learn more...

Washington State Department of Health
Medical Marijuana Program

www.doh.wa.gov/medicalmarijuana

360-236-4819

medicalmarijuana@doh.wa.gov

Changed your mind?

If you choose to no longer have an active Medical Marijuana Recognition card or would like to revoke your designated provider, you may complete the **Revocation Request Form** available on the department's web site.

Be sure to notify any designated provider you revoke from the database.



Authorizing the Use of Marijuana

To be a Washington State medical marijuana patient you must be a resident, have a qualifying condition and obtain a medical marijuana authorization from a healthcare practitioner allowed to authorize marijuana for medical use.

Qualifying conditions

Patients with terminal or debilitating medical conditions may, under their healthcare practitioner's care, benefit from marijuana. The qualifying conditions are limited to those listed on the state medical marijuana authorization form.

To be authorized, the condition must be severe enough to significantly interfere with the patient's activities of daily living and ability to function, which can be objectively assessed and evaluated.

Who may authorize

By law, the following types of healthcare practitioners licensed in Washington State are allowed to authorize the medical use of marijuana to qualifying patients:

- Medical Doctor (MD)
- Physician Assistant (PA)
- Osteopathic Physician (DO)
- Osteopathic Physician Assistant (DOA)
- Naturopathic Physician (ND)
- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)

Finding an authorizer

Qualifying patients do not need to go to a "marijuana clinic" to get their authorization. You may discuss the use of marijuana as a form of treatment with your general practitioner or the specialist you see for your qualifying condition.

About the form

The medical marijuana authorization form must be fully filled-out by the authorizing healthcare practitioner in their office with the patient (and designated provider, if any). The authorizing healthcare practitioner must verify that the patient is a resident of Washington State, and:

- Print the authorization form on 8.5 by 11 inch tamper-proof paper.*
- Fill in every box with information or use N/A - such as when the patient does not have a designated provider.
- Use full legal name and physical home address for both the patient and designated provider sections.
- Ensure their daytime office phone number is included for verification.
- Write in number of plants up to 15 if authorizing more than the default four plants, and sign the form again.

Authorization expiration

Maximum expiration for adult patients age 18 years and over is 12 months; for minor patients it is 6 months. The healthcare practitioner may choose to put a shorter expiration date.



What to do with the form

Healthcare Practitioners

Give the original form on tamper-proof paper to the patient and the patient's designated provider, if any.

Put a copy of the completed form in the patient's medical record for future reference.

Patients and Designated Providers

The patient and designated provider, if any, each have their own completed form they sign under the corresponding attestation.

- **Grow plants**

A patient with an authorization form is allowed to grow four plants.

- **Join database, get recognition card**

A patient may take the authorization to a medically endorsed marijuana store where a certified consultant will enter the patient information into the medical marijuana authorization database and create a recognition card.

Cardholders are allowed to grow six plants and up to 15 if so authorized by the healthcare practitioner.

**Note: The Medical Marijuana Authorization form is available on the department of Health's web site. Tamper-proof paper may be purchased by the same vendor that supplies prescription products.*

Who is the designated provider?

Authorized patients may designate someone to purchase their marijuana product and/or grow the marijuana for them. The designated provider also receives and signs a copy of the form printed on tamper-proof paper. The designated provider must also join the database if the patient does.