

## For Authorizing Healthcare Practitioner

It is the responsibility of the healthcare practitioner to ensure the patient is a Washington State Resident. **To be valid, the Medical Cannabis Authorization Form must be:**

- Fully completed by the authorizing healthcare practitioner:
  - Every field must be filled in unless it is described as Optional.
  - Use full name of patient and designated provider, if any. Do not use initials or nicknames.
  - Use full home street address of patient and designated provider, if any. Do not use P.O. Box.
  - If a Designated Provider is not identified, those fields must be marked N/A.
- Printed on tamper-resistant paper as defined in RCW 69.51A.010 with the state authorization form logo.
- Written on the new July 2017 form for **all authorizations and renewals beginning January 1, 2018.**

### Expiration:

- Authorizations expire no later than one year for adult patients and six months for patients under the age of 18.
- The authorizing healthcare practitioner may indicate an earlier expiration date.

### Recordkeeping:

- Keep copy of the authorization form in the patient's medical record. Medically endorsed store may call for verification.
- The patient and designated provider are given the original completed form printed on the tamper-resistant paper with the state authorization form logo. **Do not send a copy to the Department of Health – we do not collect them.**

### Original Authorization Required:

- The patient and designated provider, if any, must obtain **individual authorization** from the authorizing healthcare practitioner. It is not sufficient for the designated provider to possess a copy of the patient's authorization.

## For Patient and Designated Provider

This authorization for the medical use of cannabis does not provide protection from arrest. An authorization provides an affirmative defense to criminal prosecution for possession of cannabis, including up to four cannabis plants.

### An authorized patient or designated provider may not:

- Sell, donate, or otherwise supply the patient's cannabis to another person, except as authorized in RCW 69.50.4013.
- Use or display cannabis in a manner or place that is open to the view of the general public.
- Grow, possess, or use cannabis on federal property.
- Grow more than 15 plants in any one housing unit even if multiple qualifying patients or designated providers reside in the housing unit, unless growing within a patient cooperative registered with the state Liquor and Cannabis Board.
- Grow, store, produce, or process cannabis or cannabis-infused products if any portion of such activity can be readily seen by normal unaided vision or readily smelled from a public place or the private property of another housing unit.

## Benefits of Medical Cannabis Recognition Card

Medical cannabis patients with a valid authorization form may **join the medical cannabis authorization database** and receive their medical cannabis recognition card. Joining the authorization database is voluntary for patients age 18 and over and is required if the patient is under the age of 18. Patients age 18-20 may purchase products if they join the authorization database and have a valid recognition card. They are not required to have a designated provider.

### A recognition card holder may:

- Purchase products **sales-tax free** at licensed and medically endorsed cannabis stores.
- Purchase up to **three times the current limits** at licensed and medically endorsed cannabis stores.
- Purchase **Chapter 246-71 Compliant High THC** products at licensed and medically endorsed cannabis stores.
- Possess **six plants and eight ounces** of usable cannabis. A healthcare practitioner may authorize additional plants to a maximum of 15; an authorized patient may possess up to 16 ounces of usable cannabis produced from the plants.
- Participate in a **medical cannabis cooperative** regulated by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board.
- Have **arrest protection**.

### How to join the database:

- Bring your valid authorization form to any licensed and medically endorsed cannabis store.
- Ask to see the certified medical cannabis consultant on staff who is authorized to enter patients into the database.
- Show the consultant your authorization form so that he or she may enter your information into the database, take your picture, and create a new medical cannabis recognition card. [Take your form home and keep in a safe place.]
- Pay a \$1 fee required from cardholders when the card is created. The medically endorsed cannabis store collects the fee and pays it to the Department of Health.