

## Adverse Reactions to Medical Cannabis

If you think you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or go to an emergency room immediately. If you think you are having an adverse event that is non-life-threatening, speak to your health care provider or pharmacist and report the incident.

## Visit a Medical Cannabis Dispensary

To purchase medical cannabis at a medical dispensary, you must provide:

1. A government-issued photo ID and
2. Your patient certification, signed by the provider: paper copy or displayed on a digital device

### Find a Medical Dispensary:

To be sure you are purchasing cannabis products from a registered NYS Medical Dispensary, look for the verification door decal.



## Learn More

Visit the Office of Cannabis Management website for more information about the Medical Cannabis Program at [cannabis.ny.gov/medical](https://cannabis.ny.gov/medical)

If you have additional questions please contact the Medical Cannabis Program at 1-888-626-5151 or by e-mail at [medical@ocm.ny.gov](mailto:medical@ocm.ny.gov)

[cannabis.ny.gov](https://cannabis.ny.gov)



Office of Cannabis Management

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# New York State Medical Cannabis Program

## For Older Adults



Office of Cannabis Management

**Across the country,** cannabis use among adults aged 65+ has risen by 3.8% in the last 8 years.

In New York State, 30% of medical cannabis patients are over the age of 60. Medical cannabis has proven to relieve many symptoms associated with a variety of health conditions that are often a result of aging.

## Common Conditions

Medical cannabis can be used for **any condition deemed clinically appropriate** by your health care

- **Alzheimer's**
- **Autism**
- **Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)**
- **Cancer**
- **Chronic Pain**
- **Glaucoma**
- **Inflammatory bowel disease**
- **Mood disorders** (anxiety, sleep issues, depression, etc)
- **Multiple sclerosis**
- **Neuropathy**
- **Parkinson's disease**
- **Rheumatoid arthritis**

Talk to your health care provider and see if medical cannabis is right for you. Medical cannabis may not be right for everyone.

## Program Highlights



**No Fee** in New York State there is no fee to become a patient or designated caregiver in the program. Please note some doctors may charge a fee to clinically evaluate you.



**Designate Caregivers:** if you need assistance with buying, storing, and administering medical cannabis you can designate a caregiver.

A patient may also designate a designated caregiver facility (e.g., a general hospital or a mental hygiene facility amongst other things) to assist with their medical cannabis care.



**Onsite Pharmacist:** Onsite pharmacists are available at every medical dispensary to discuss health care provider recommendations, cannabis product types and dosing based on medical history.



**Lab testing:** New York's strict testing regulations for the medical program ensures safer products for patients and helps to reduce the risk of potential consumption of contaminants.



**Home Grow:** Patients and designated caregivers are allowed to cultivate their own cannabis for a patient's personal medical use.

## Getting Started

A health care provider will need to provide you with a NYS certification in order to participate in the Medical Cannabis Program.

**Step 1:** If your health care provider already participates in the Medical Cannabis Program, they can certify you if clinically appropriate and you will be auto-registered into the program.

**Step 2:** If your health care provider does not participate in the Medical Cannabis Program, you can find a participating provider here:

**Step 3:** If you don't have access to a nearby certifying provider, you can filter the database for telemedicine providers and become a certified medical cannabis patient online via telehealth.

Scan Here to Find a Certifying Provider



## Find the Right Product for You

Utilizing cannabis does not require you to smoke or get "high". You can experience the therapeutic benefits of cannabis by consuming it in a variety of ways.

This can include:



Applying cannabis lotions or balms to sore muscles and inflamed joints



Inhaling vaporized cannabis flower or oil



Brewing cannabis flower into a tea



Mixing cannabis oil into homemade or prepared foods

Ingesting a cannabis capsule or lozenge

Cannabis affects the body in many different ways, therefore, it is important to discuss any questions or concerns with your health care provider or onsite pharmacist before you make the choice to consume medical cannabis for your condition.

## Important Points to Consider and Discuss with your Health Care Provider

- Medications, including prescriptions and herbal supplements, may influence the effects of cannabis.
- Certain conditions, including liver and kidney disease, can affect how cannabis is processed by the body.
- Cannabis may contribute to a feeling of instability leading to increased risk of falling.
- Cannabis can raise your heart rate and lower blood pressure, contributing to an increased risk of fainting, heart attack, or stroke.