

# Patient and Caregiver Certification and Recertification Guidelines

Patients must speak to a certifying health care provider to receive and/or update their medical cannabis certification.

## Patients

For individuals interested in medical cannabis, follow these instructions to become a certified patient:

### Find a Certifying Health Care Provider

- Reach out to your health care provider about medical cannabis:
  - If your health care provider already participates in the Medical Cannabis Program, they can certify you into the program if clinically appropriate.
  - If your health care provider does not participate in the Medical Cannabis Program, they cannot certify you for medical cannabis and you will have to find a participating health care provider.\*
- No health care provider? No problem:
  - You can search the public database and filter by county to find a participating provider near you. If you don't have a nearby provider or prefer to be seen remotely, you can filter the database for telemedicine providers and become a certified medical cannabis patient online via telehealth.
  - Scan to Find a Certifying Provider:



\*Scan the QR code if you are a health care provider interested in getting involved with the Medical Cannabis Program and want to learn more.

### Get Certified as a Medical Cannabis Patient

1. Make an appointment with a certifying health care provider and speak with them about your reasons for pursuing medical cannabis. If the provider deems your condition appropriate for medical cannabis, they will certify you as a patient.
2. The health care provider will collect some of your demographic information to be included along with any cannabis dosing recommendations on your certification. They will submit your certification electronically.
3. Once submitted, your certification # is automatically generated by the system. Your health care provider will print and sign your certification and give it to you or if you are using a certifying provider via telehealth, they will transmit a signed certification to you electronically for you to download or print.
4. Once you receive your certification, you are immediately able to visit a medical dispensary and purchase medical cannabis products.
5. To purchase medical cannabis at a medical dispensary, you must provide a government issued photo ID and either a paper copy of your signed patient certification or an electronic copy displayed on a smart device.

## Get Recertified as a Medical Cannabis Patient

Patient certifications may expire within one year of the date they were issued, unless your health care provider indicates that you are terminally ill. Please review the certification document once received and speak with your certifying provider before the expiration date to continue care if the treatment is working. To keep your patient certification active you should:

1. Speak with your certifying health care provider before the expiration date of your certification.
2. If your health care provider determines that medical cannabis remains an appropriate treatment option, your certifying health care provider will be able to extend the expiration date of your patient certification and provide you with an updated copy.
3. If your certification expires, you can speak with your certifying health care provider and they will issue you a new, updated patient certification if appropriate.

## Caregivers

**To become a registered designated caregiver, follow these instructions:**

1. First, a patient must designate you as their caregiver. To do this, a patient must login to their registration via My.Ny.gov and add you as a designated caregiver. A patient may designate up to five designated caregivers. A patient may also designate a designated caregiver facility (e.g., a general hospital or a mental hygiene facility amongst other things) or research license holder.
2. Once a certified patient has designated you as a caregiver, you must register as their designated caregiver online by following these steps:
  - a. Go to My.NY.gov to login to your personal My.NY.gov account. If you don't have an account, you will need to create an account.
  - b. Once logged in, click on the "Health Applications" tile.
  - c. Click on the "Medical Cannabis Data Management System" link.
  - d. Click on the "Start New Registration" button
  - e. Follow the steps to register
  - f. Once registered, you will have immediate access to your registry ID document.
  - g. To purchase medical cannabis for your patient at a medical dispensary, you must provide a government issued photo ID, a copy of your patient's certification and your registry ID document.

## Update your Registration or Re-register as a Caregiver

**If your patient received a new certification, you must re-register following the steps above.**

If your patient's existing certification was extended and you have been their designated caregiver for a while, you do not need to re-register. Your registration has been extended until your patient's certification expiration date.

If you need to update the information on your registration, log in to your My.NY.gov account and make any changes within your existing registration.

**Please email [medical@ocm.ny.gov](mailto:medical@ocm.ny.gov) or call 1-888-626-5151 if you have questions or need assistance.**



**Office of Cannabis  
Management**

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