

Resources

OCM provides certifying practitioners in the Medical Cannabis Program with resources to make certifying patients for medical cannabis as straightforward as possible.

Learn More

Visit the Office of Cannabis Management website for more information about the Medical Cannabis Program at 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

cannabis.ny.gov



Office of Cannabis
Management

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New York State

Medical Cannabis Program

Practitioner Information



Office of Cannabis
Management

Since 2016, the New York State Medical Cannabis Program has provided access to medical cannabis for patients. Currently there are over 120,000 patients and 4,000 certifying practitioners participating in the program.

There is a growing amount of scientific literature investigating cannabis and supporting its therapeutic potential. Since 2010, scientists have published over 29,000 peer-reviewed papers specific to medical cannabis, 1,331 of which have been clinical trials.

A 2023 survey of NYS certifying practitioners found that 89% are satisfied with the level of relief their patients experience from cannabis for a variety of conditions, validating that cannabis may be an effective and valuable treatment option.

Common Conditions

You may certify a patient for the use of medical cannabis for **any condition that you deem clinically appropriate** including but not limited to:

- **Autism**
- **Alzheimer's**
- **Cancer**
- **Chronic Pain**
- **Epilepsy**
- **HIV/AIDS**
- **Inflammatory bowel disease**
- **Certain Mental Health conditions** (PTSD, anxiety, etc)
- **Multiple sclerosis**
- **Neuropathy**
- **Parkinson's disease**
- **Rheumatoid arthritis**
- **Substance use disorder**
- **And more**

Know Your Rights

Licensed practitioners in NYS have the right to discuss medical cannabis with their patients and in doing so, are afforded protections by both the federal and state governments.

Constitutional Right: Your ability to discuss and make medical cannabis recommendations to your patients is considered protected speech under the First Amendment.

Federal: The Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act signed into law in December 2022 explicitly states that state-licensed physicians have the right to discuss cannabis with their patients without fear of prosecution.

New York State: Under Article 3 of the Cannabis Law, practitioners lawfully participating in the NYS Medical Cannabis Program are protected from arrest and/or prosecution by any licensing board or bureau.

OCM-Approved Educational Course

The Office has approved several courses* which provide practitioners with a comprehensive overview of medical cannabis. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Legal considerations in medical cannabis
- Biology of the Endocannabinoid System
- Pharmacology of cannabis
- Drug interactions
- Routes of administration and dosing
- Therapeutic use of cannabis in clinical conditions
- Communicating with patients about medical cannabis
- Potential health implications and harms of medical cannabis

Get Involved

Scan to Become a Certifying Provider

To be eligible to certify patients, practitioners must:

1. Be licensed in NYS to prescribe controlled substances
2. Complete at a minimum a two (2) hour Office of Cannabis Management approved course on the medical use of cannabis.



*Some courses may offer CME credits. Consult the list of OCM-approved educational courses for more information regarding enrollment and CME credits.