

Patient Rights & Protections

As a certified medical cannabis patient, you have rights and protections afforded to you by New York State.



The Right to Quality Care

As a certified medical cannabis patient, you have the right to explore your health care options and discuss medical cannabis with a healthcare provider. This includes:

- The ability to discuss medical cannabis treatment without being stigmatized or judged
- Access to a certifying provider who can assist you with medical cannabis certification and provide continuation of care for your medical needs, including medical cannabis treatment
- Access to an on-site pharmacist at a medical cannabis dispensary to talk to you about cannabis dosing and product recommendations
- Access to lab tested medical cannabis products
- The ability to designate up to 5 caregivers to assist you with buying, storing, transporting, and administering medical cannabis



The Right to Privacy

As a certified medical cannabis patient, you have the right to keep your status as a certified medical cannabis patient private.

- Your status as a certified medical cannabis patient is considered protected health information.
- You do not have to disclose your status as a certified medical cannabis patient, even with an employer, law enforcement, or a court.
- It is your right to choose when and with whom to share your status. Upon your written request, the Office of Cannabis Management can confirm your status as a certified medical cannabis patient with institutions, such as a school or employer, if need be.



The Right to Possess and Consume Medical Cannabis

As a certified medical cannabis patient, your medical use of cannabis is protected under the Cannabis Law.

- You have the right to consume medical cannabis in your home, including but not limited to smoking or vaping whole cannabis flower, cannabis concentrate, and/or ground plant products. Please note that landlords can only prohibit the use of medical cannabis if it would put them at risk of losing a federal benefit.
- You have the right to possess up to a 60-day supply of medical cannabis based on the dose of cannabis products determined by your practitioner or the dispensary pharmacist.
- You **cannot** be denied any right or privilege solely for possessing or consuming medical cannabis.
- You **cannot** be subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty solely for possessing or consuming medical cannabis.



The Right to Grow Cannabis

As a certified medical cannabis patient aged 21 or older you have the right to grow (“cultivate”) medical cannabis for your personal medical use. Each certified patient can cultivate, harvest, and dry 3 mature and 3 immature cannabis plants. If there are multiple patients living in one household, no more than 6 mature and 6 immature cannabis plants can be grown in the home. There are, however, options for having a designated caregiver grow for the medical cannabis patient.

Growing cannabis for medical purposes cannot be prohibited by a landlord, homeowner association, or co-op board, except if the landlord would lose a federal benefit. For more information on medical cannabis home cultivation in New York, link here to the [Medical Home Cultivation Guide](#).



The Right to Reasonable Accommodations

Your status as a certified medical cannabis patient is considered a disability under the [New York State Human Rights Law](#).

- Employers and businesses open to the public are required to provide reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. A reasonable accommodation may include a modification or adjustment to a work or public environment to accommodate the patient’s certified use of medical cannabis.
- As a certified medical cannabis patient, you have the same rights to reasonable accommodations and amended job duties that are available to injured workers under the workers’ compensation law.

The refusal to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures for a person with a disability is an unlawful discriminatory practice.



Legal Protections

As a patient in the Medical Cannabis Program, you have the right to lawfully consume cannabis without fear of prosecution or arrest. Below are protections outlined in the Cannabis Law:

- If you are a part of a domestic violence, social services, or family court case, your status as a certified medical cannabis patient **cannot** be held against you.
- If you are under parole, probation, or released on bail awaiting trial, you **cannot** be punished for your status as a certified medical cannabis patient.
- You **cannot** be fired for your status as a certified medical cannabis patient.

It is important to remember it is still illegal for ANY individual to drive or operate a motor vehicle while consuming and/or impaired by cannabis.



Office of Cannabis Management

Follow us on social media @nys_cannabis



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 or call 1-888-626-5151 if you have questions or need assistance.



**Office of Cannabis
Management**

Follow us on social media @nys_cannabis



Medical Cannabis Products (New York)

NOTE: You do not have to smoke or get “high” to experience the therapeutic benefits of cannabis. Cannabis can be consumed in a variety of ways and at different potencies (strength) to help achieve your health goals.

Product Forms:

The Medical Cannabis Program offers the following product forms:

Mucosal:

Products such as **sprays and lozenges**, are designed to absorb through a mucous membrane (like your mouth) directly into the bloodstream. This means you will likely feel the effects quickly.



Ingestible:

Products such as **capsules, tinctures, gummies, and chewable tablets** are ingested and processed through the liver and digestive tract. It may take longer for these products to take effect, however once they do, the effects can last for many hours depending on the dose.



Inhalable:

Products such as **whole flower, ground flower, pre-rolls, vape cartridges and single-use vape pens** are either heated or combusted, producing smoke or vapor that is inhaled for a quick onset of effects.



Topical:

Products such as **balms, lotions, and salves**, can be applied to the skin for localized therapeutic action and relief. After application, products may take effect quickly.



Cannabinoid Ratio Types

You may encounter cannabis products with different ratios of THC and CBD. There are three main cannabinoid ratio types. *

Type I: High THC and Low CBD

If products contain a greater amount of THC compared to other cannabinoids, they will likely make you feel ‘high’. If you have too large of a dose for you, THC may lead to side effects including paranoia, elevated heart rate, and dizziness.

Type II: An equal ratio of THC and CBD

Cannabis products with a 1:1 ratio of THC and CBD, meaning equal amounts of each, may produce euphoric effects, depending on the dose. Research suggests CBD and THC may work together to influence the effects.

Type III: High CBD and Low THC

Cannabis products with a dominant ratio of CBD may produce little euphoric effects. These products may not cause the patient to ‘feel high’ compared to Type I and Type II.

*Each medical dispensary is required to carry at least one product that has a low THC and high CBD content and at least one product that has approximately equal amounts of THC and CBD.

Choosing the Right Product and Ratio Type

The right product, potency, ratio type (THC:CBD) and serving size of cannabis is different for everybody! The “right” product depends on the medical condition you are managing and your therapeutic goals.

Additional compounds, beyond THC and CBD, such as minor cannabinoids and terpenes may offer potential benefit and impact how cannabis will affect you. Speak with your healthcare provider or a pharmacist at the medical dispensary to understand which compounds and products may be best for your needs.

Medical Cannabis Purchasing Limits

Medical cannabis patients can purchase up to a 60-day supply of medical cannabis, however that amount differs for each patient dependent on the dosing recommendations set by your healthcare provider or the pharmacist at the medical dispensary.

What If You’ve Overconsumed

Consuming too much cannabis too quickly can be overwhelming and scary.

- Remind yourself that the effects are temporary
- Hydrate and rest
- Take deep breaths
- Call your support system
- Find an activity that offers you comfort

Safe Storage of Cannabis Products

Always keep cannabis products locked, stored out of reach and out of sight. Never store edibles near other foods or beverages where accidental consumption can occur by adults, young people, or pets. To prevent cannabis product degradation, avoid exposure to light, heat, and oxygen.

If there is an accidental exposure or an adverse reaction to cannabis – **call 911 if it’s a medical emergency and the Poison Center (800)-222-1222 for non-urgent matters.** Contact the Poison Center or your veterinarian immediately if your pet has accidentally ingested cannabis.



Scan to Report an **Adverse Event** or a concern with a cannabis business or product.

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.

Scan below to find a medical dispensary.



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

Follow us on social media @nys_cannabis



New York State Medical Cannabis Program



Office of Cannabis Management

Program Highlights



No Fee in New York State to register as a patient or designated caregiver in the program. Please note some health care providers may charge a fee to clinically evaluate you.



Onsite Pharmacist available at every medical dispensary to review certification recommendations and discuss cannabis product types and dosing based on medical history.



Lab testing provides for safer products for patients and helps to reduce the risk of potential consumption of contaminants.



Home Grow allows patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for a patient's personal medical use.

Common Conditions

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

Getting Started

A health care provider will need to provide you with a NYS medical cannabis patient certification in order for you 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 to find a **certifying healthcare provider**

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 at **cannabis.ny.gov/report-an-incident**.

Find the Right Product for You

There are many medical cannabis product forms available.



Consumables: including edibles, capsules, tablets, chewable gels, lozenges, tinctures



Inhalables: including pre-rolls, flower, concentrates, vaporization oil



Topicals: including lotions, balms, patches

Important Points to Consider

- Discuss all your medical conditions and other medications you take with your health care provider or pharmacist prior to starting medical cannabis.
- Medical cannabis has not been analyzed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- Be sure to store medical cannabis securely away from children and pets and dispose of it properly.
- There is no minimum age requirement to be a medical cannabis patient in NY. Patients under 18 or those incapable of consent are required to have at least one designated caregiver at the time of certification.

Caregivers

If you need assistance with your medical cannabis care, **the program allows patients to designate up to five caregivers to assist with buying, storing, and administering medical cannabis.** Patients may also use Designated Caregiver Facilities registered with the office.

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

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

Follow us on social media @nys_cannabis



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.



Office of Cannabis
Management

Looking to purchase medical cannabis?

Scan to Find a Medical Cannabis Dispensary.



Consumables: including edibles, capsules, tablets, chewable gels, lozenges, tinctures



Inhalables: including pre-rolls, flower, concentrates, vaporization oil



Topicals: including lotions, balms, patches

Think medical cannabis can help you?

Scan to View Publicly
Listed Certifying
Health Care Providers



Scan to find a
Medical Cannabis
Dispensary



cannabis.ny.gov/medical

What if You've Overconsumed

- Remind yourself that the effects are temporary
- Hydrate and rest
- Take deep breaths
- Call your support system
- Find an activity that offers you comfort

If there is an accidental exposure or an adverse reaction to cannabis – call 911 if it's a medical emergency and the Poison Center (800)-222-1222 for non-urgent matters.

Scan here to report
concerns about a
cannabis product,
business, or to share an
adverse health reaction



Office of Cannabis
Management



cannabis.ny.gov/medical