Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Program

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Secretary of Health

June 8, 2018
Welcome to Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's vision is to have a high quality, efficient and compliant medical marijuana program for commonwealth residents with serious medical conditions as defined by Act 16.

KEY ASPECT #1
The patient

KEY ASPECT #2
Administration of the Law

KEY ASPECT #3
A highly monitored supply chain, with departmental oversight
Medical Marijuana Program Mission

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is in the process of implementing the Commonwealth’s Medical Marijuana Program, signed into law on April 17, 2016.

When fully implemented, the Medical Marijuana Program will provide access to medical marijuana for patients with a serious medical condition through a safe and effective method of distribution that balances patient need for access to the latest treatments with patient care and safety.

The Medical Marijuana Program will also promote high quality research into the efficacy of medical marijuana in treating a patient’s serious medical condition.
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**PASSAGE/ENACTMENT**

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**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

The program is being administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health who will enforce the act, issue medical marijuana cards to registered patients/caregivers and issue permits to grower/ producers and dispensaries within the Commonwealth.

**PATIENTS**

Under the Medical Marijuana Program, patients, who are residents of the Commonwealth and have a serious medical condition as certified by a physician, will be able to obtain medical marijuana at approved dispensaries in the Commonwealth with their Department-issued medical marijuana ID card.
Patient Details

An individual must satisfy the three qualifications below in order to be a patient under Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Program:

- Have a serious medical condition
- Meet the requirements for certification under the act
- Be a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
17 Original Conditions Covered

The following serious medical conditions were selected under Act 16.

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Autism
- Cancer
- Crohn’s disease
- Damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS (Positive status)
- Huntington’s disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Intractable seizures
- Multiple sclerosis (MS)
- Neuropathies
- Parkinson’s disease
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable pain in which conventional therapeutic intervention and opiate therapy is contraindicated or ineffective
- Sickle cell anemia
21 Revised Conditions Covered

These serious medical conditions were revised and became effective on May 17, 2018

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Autism
- Cancer, including remission therapy
- Crohn’s disease
- Damage to the nervous tissue of the central nervous system (brain-spinal cord) with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, and other associated neuropathies
- Dyskinetic and spastic movement disorders
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV / AIDS
- Huntington’s disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Intractable seizures
- Multiple sclerosis
- Neurodegenerative diseases
- Neuropathies
- Opioid use disorder for which conventional therapeutic interventions are contraindicated or ineffective, or for which adjunctive therapy is indicated in combination with primary therapeutic interventions
- Parkinson’s disease
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable pain
- Sickle cell anemia
- Terminal illness
Available Forms

Grower/processors may only manufacture the forms of medical marijuana listed within Act 16. A dispensary may only purchase permitted forms from an approved grower/processor and then dispense those forms to approved patients or caregivers.

- Vaporization or Nebulization
- Pill/Capsule
- Topical Forms
- Dry Leaf (NEW)
- Tincture
- Liquid Suspension
- Oil
The Supply Chain

This graphic describes the transition from medical marijuana seeds and immature plants through processing and manufacturing of medical marijuana product to the dispensing to patients.

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Key Participants

Each of the participants shown below plays an important role in Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Program.

- Grower/Processor
- Laboratory
- Caregiver
- Practitioner
- Dispensary
- Patient
Grower/Processor Overview

Establish and maintain the proper facilities to securely and safely cultivate the growth of medical marijuana plants.

Establish and operate the proper facilities to transform the principal chemicals (cannabinoids) of medical marijuana into safe products.
Grower/Processor Overview cont.

There are many critical roles necessary to efficiently operate a grower/processor facility.

Individuals have the opportunity to specialize in horticulture, extraction, processing, transportation or administrative functions.

Employees will work in a secure facility with video surveillance and badge access to the building and to specific areas.

No one under the age of 18 is allowed on premise, and any visitor must gain special permission.

Department officials and inspectors may visit the facility at any time to ensure statutory and regulatory compliance.
Laboratory Overview

Ensure that medical marijuana adheres to its chemical labeling so that patients receive the correct dosage and form to treat their conditions.

Approved medical marijuana laboratories collect samples to test for contaminants and potency after harvest and after the final processing.
A practitioner is a physician who has registered with the Department of Health under section 401 of the Act (35 P.S. § 10231.401) to issue patient certifications. A physician may register as a practitioner by meeting the following criteria:

- Hold a valid, unexpired, unrevoked, unsuspended Pennsylvania license to practice medicine;
- Demonstrate to the Department by training or expertise that he or she is qualified in treating serious medical conditions;
- Apply to the Department to be registered with the program; and
- Successfully complete the required four-hour course established by the Department.
Physician Involvement

Medical marijuana can be counted as one of many tools in a physicians toolbox to treat serious medical conditions.
Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Program

Search must include Date of Birth and one of the following fields: Patient ID, Email Address, or Last Name.

Patient ID: 1145  
Date Of Birth: 10/03/1965

Email Address: Email Address

Last Name: Last Name

Search Patients
Dispensary Overview

Dispense medical marijuana product to registered patients and caregivers for the treatment of serious medical conditions.

Maintain clean, efficient, secure, and safe facilities to ensure that medical marijuana product is not diverted from patients/caregivers.
Dispensary Overview cont.

Every dispensary operation must employ a medical professional who has completed the required 4-hour training and registered with the Department.

If a dispensary has multiple locations as designated by their primary permit, a physician assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner can serve as the medical professional, provided they are registered and have completed the required 4-hour training course.

A medical professional shall be present during all hours that the facility is open and offering to dispense, to provide consultative advice to a patient.

A practitioner or physician may not issue a patient certification at the dispensary facility.
Patients and Caregivers Overview

Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program was created to provide a medically-focused program that benefits patients.

Once a patient is issued a medical marijuana ID card, the individual can obtain medical marijuana product in accordance with the recommendation on their patient certificate.

A patient can designate a caregiver to obtain their medical marijuana product. A caregiver must be at least 21 years old, register with the Department, complete a background check and be issued their own medical marijuana ID card.

Minors, homebound individuals and patients with a designated caregiver will have the caregiver obtain their medical marijuana product at an approved dispensary.

A registered caregiver may be designated by up to five patients; a patient can designate up to two caregivers.
How Patients Register

A patient must register with the Department of Health and be issued a patient certification by a registered practitioner before becoming eligible to receive an ID card and obtain medical marijuana product from a dispensary.

Register with the Department

Consult with a registered practitioner to assess if medical marijuana is appropriate

Be issued a patient certification and finish ID card registration
Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Program

**New Users**

Click appropriate hyperlink below to register with the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program Registry

**Providers:**
- Physician Registration
- Medical Professional Registration

**Patients:**
- Adult Patient Registration

**Caregivers:**
- Adult Patient Caregiver Registration
- Caregiver registration for individuals requiring in-home support, for a minor, or for a person with a disability (New Caregiver registering for existing patient)
- Caregiver registration for individuals requiring in-home support, for a minor, or for a person with a disability (New Caregiver registering for a new patient)
- DOH Approved Caregiver Registration

**Returning Users**

Please sign in below using the system credentials assigned during your registration process.

Sign in to your account

Username

Password

Remember Me

Log In

Note: Username and Password are case sensitive

Forgot your username or password?
Patients who are over the age of 18 and who are not homebound will be issued an ID card that they can use at a dispensary to obtain medical marijuana product.

**Patient Certification**
Patients must be certified by a registered and approved practitioner in the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program to be eligible for an ID card.

**ID Card Renewal**
The Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana ID card is valid for up to one year; patients must have a practitioner issue a new patient certification at each renewal.
Medical Marijuana ID Card (Caregiver)

Caregivers may serve patients under the age of 18 and patients who are unable to obtain medical marijuana product without assistance.

No Card for Minors
No qualified patient under the age of 18 will be issued an ID Card; minors will have a designated caregiver who may be a parent, legal guardian, or a designee approved by the Department.

Homebound Patients
Patients unable to obtain medical marijuana independently will not be issued an ID card. Patients who are homebound will have a designated caregiver to obtain their medical marijuana.
Medical Marijuana is now available to Patients in Pennsylvania!
Update

• Completed the Safe Harbor temporary guidelines and Safe Harbor Letter application process, as well as approved more than 340 applications;

• Completed temporary regulations for growers/processors, dispensaries, physicians, patients and laboratories, all which have been published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin;

• Issued Phase I permits to 27 entities for dispensaries and 12 entities for grower/processers; and

• 12 grower/processors and 26 dispensaries have been approved as operational.
Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Regions

Please Note: Dots represent counties where Phase I permits are issued, and not specific locations of each site and facility.
Update

• Developed the Medical Marijuana Physician Workgroup;
• Convened the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board, issued a final report, and adopted all approved recommendations;
• Approved six training providers for physician and medical professional continuing-education;
• Approved four laboratories to test medication before it is delivered to patients; and
• Initiated the Phase II application process and certified eight Academic Clinical Research Centers.
Update

• Launched registries for patients and caregivers, as well as physicians;
  – Over **41,000 Patients** and more than **4,000 Caregivers** have registered, almost 21,000 Patients are certified by a Practitioner with greater than 45,000 Patient dispensing activities to date; and
  – More than **1,000 Physicians** have registered and over 650 Physicians have completed the required training to become Approved Practitioners in the Medical Marijuana program.
Next Steps

• Continue to encourage Physicians to register;
• Continue to educate Patients and Caregivers;
• Continue to issue Medical Marijuana ID cards;
• Operationalize all permitted Dispensaries; and
• Carry out Phase II for G/Ps and Dispensary permits.
Pennsylvania’s Medical Marijuana Program

Visit our website for updates on implementation. www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov

To contact the staff at the Pennsylvania Office of Medical Marijuana, send an email to RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov
Questions?

@SecretaryLevine