How to Become a Medical Cannabis Patient in Pennsylvania

Patients that want to participate in the medical cannabis program must follow these four steps:

1. Visit the Patients and Caregivers Registry and create a patient profile in the Department of Health’s patient and caregiver registry.
   
   https://padohmmp.custhelp.com/app/adult-patient-registration

2. Obtain a physician’s certification that you suffer from one of the 17 serious medical conditions. A list of physicians participating in the program is available at https://safeaccess.us/PA-Physicians.

   - Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
   - 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 AIDS
   - Huntington’s Disease
   - Inflammatory Bowel Disease
   - Intractable Seizures
   - Multiple Sclerosis
   - Neuropathies
   - Parkinson’s Disease
   - Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
   - 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

3. Return to the Patient and Caregivers Registry and pay for a medical marijuana ID card. The fee for the card is $50. Individuals providing evidence that they participate in the following government programs may qualify for a discounted medical marijuana ID card: Medicaid, PACE/ PACENET, CHIP, SNAP, and WIC.
Obtain medical cannabis from an approved dispensary in Pennsylvania. A list of dispensaries is available at [https://safeaccess.us/PA-Dispensaries](https://safeaccess.us/PA-Dispensaries).

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is medical marijuana?**

Under Act 16 of 2016 (the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Act or the Act), the term “medical marijuana” refers to marijuana obtained for a certified medical use by a Pennsylvania resident with a serious medical condition and is limited by statute in Pennsylvania to the following forms:

- Flower
- Pill
- Oil
- Topical forms, including gel, creams, or ointments
- A form medically appropriate for administration by vaporization or nebulization
- Tincture
- Liquid

**Does the Medical Marijuana Program protect against federal prosecution?**

No. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has the authority to enforce civil and criminal federal laws relating to marijuana possession and use, regardless of state law. Growing, distributing, and/or possessing marijuana in any capacity, except through a federally-approved research program, is a violation of federal law, and no state or local law provides a legal defense to a violation of federal law. In light of current DOJ guidance, however, it may be unlikely that federal authorities would bring civil enforcement actions or criminal investigations and prosecutions against growers/processors, dispensaries, physicians, seriously ill individuals or caregivers as long as they are acting pursuant to the Act. A memorandum from the DOJ (PDF), dated August 29, 2013, explains the priorities of federal authorities regarding marijuana possession and use, including state medical marijuana programs.

**Can minors with serious medical conditions get medical marijuana?**

Yes. Patients under the age of 18 with a serious medical condition may get medical marijuana through a caregiver.

More frequently asked questions are posted at [http://medicalmarijuana.pa.gov](http://medicalmarijuana.pa.gov).