

# GET THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA IDENTIFICATION CARD

## **Pay less tax, qualify for compassion programs, & enjoy more legal protection!**

Did you know that legal medical cannabis patients and their primary caregivers may apply for a voluntary and confidential ID card through their local county health department? State law now makes the Medical Marijuana Identification Card (MMIC) even more valuable for patients and primary caregivers in California.

**Sales Tax Exemption.** MMIC holders do not have to pay sales tax when buying medical cannabis goods from a medical retailer (dispensary). That means a savings of 7.25% to 10.25%, depending on where you buy medicine. (Revenue and Taxation Code 34011(g))

**Compassion Programs.** Your MMIC is required if you want to benefit from a Compassion Program – i.e. free or low-cost cannabis goods provided to patients by some medical cannabis retailers. Retailers can no longer distribute free cannabis to patients without a MMIC. (Section 5411 of Title 16, Division 42, of the California Code of Regulations)

**Legal Protection.** The MMIC may provide you with additional legal protection when you are carrying your medical cannabis. Patients can buy and possess more cannabis than legal adult-use consumers. Patients may also use cannabis products with higher dosages. The MMIC allows law enforcement to immediately identify you as a legal patient. That may help to avoid hassles or confiscation of medicine. (Health and Safety Code 11362.71(e))

The state charges an annual fee of \$100 for the MMIC. Low-income patients pay only \$50, and indigent patients are eligible for free cards.

**You do not have to worry about your privacy.** Your application materials are confidential and protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The Medical Marijuana Application System does not contain any personal information such as name, address, or social security number. It only contains the unique user ID number. When the ID number is entered into the system, the only information provided is whether the card is valid or invalid.

You must apply for the MMIC at your local county health department office or by mail. Email [MMPinfo@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:MMPinfo@cdph.ca.gov) or call (916) 552-8600 for more information. Visit the California Department of Public Health's Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program website here:

**<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Medial-Marijuana-Identification-Card.aspx>**