

Patient Access Guide

JULY 2017

SB 8A was signed into law by Governor Scott on June 23rd, 2017. Here is what patients in Florida need to know:

**If you were a qualified patient prior to 6/23/17, you are still a qualifying patient today. Apply for and I.D. card with the Office of Medical Marijuana Use, if you haven't already and make sure you recertify with your doctor within 30 weeks of your last visit.*

Who qualifies to be a patient?

New Patients must physically see a licensed Florida physician who has been certified to recommend medical marijuana in Florida and who diagnoses them with one of the following conditions:

- cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, PTSD, ALS, Chron's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis
- a terminal condition
- any other "debilitating medical condition" as determined by your physician
- chronic nonmalignant pain

Is there a 90-day waiting period before I can become a patient?

NO!!!!!! When SB 8A was signed into law, the previous requirement of a 90-day wait was eliminated.

Can I get medical marijuana the same day I see the doctor?

Also, NO, unfortunately. Doctors and patients are reporting a 1-2 week wait between submitting a physician certification and I.D. card application, and actually being approved in the Medical Marijuana Use registry.

Wait, isn't it called the Office of Compassionate Use?

Not anymore. SB 8A changed the name to the Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMU)

The OMU website shows I'm an active patient, but I haven't received my I.D. card yet – can I still purchase medical marijuana?

Yes. If you are approved in the registry, have your patient number and a government issued I.D. card, dispensaries can sell to you before your card arrives.

I have a medical marijuana card from another state, am I a legal medical marijuana user in Florida?

No. Unfortunately, Florida does not have reciprocity with other states.

But I spend my Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall in Florida, can I become a patient here?

Yes. There is a provision for seasonal residents who spend at least 31 consecutive days per year in Florida and provide documentation (mail, bills, etc.) to prove your seasonal status to the OMU.

Can my child access medical marijuana under the law?

Yes. With parental/legal guardian consent, and the concurrence of a second physician, minor patients can access medical marijuana under the law.

What forms of medical marijuana are available for purchase?

Once the law is fully implemented, patients will be able to purchase and use medical marijuana products in oil/concentrate, pre-filled vape cartridges of dried flower, edible, and pill/suppository forms. However until the OMU issues new rules under the law, medical marijuana is only available in oil/concentrate (including vape cartridges pre-filled with oil) and pill form.

Smoking medical marijuana is prohibited? Really?

Yes, really. Florida for Care is joining John Morgan's #NoSmokelsAJoke lawsuit over this issue. For more information or to contribute to the suit, go to www.FloridaForCare.org/NoSmokelsAJoke.

Are these forms of medical marijuana safe?

Yes, SB 8-A creates standards for both processed and edible forms of medical marijuana. As well as extensive labeling requirements and a mandate for independent testing of the processed form of medical marijuana.

Can I buy medical marijuana from any store?

No, a list of licensed medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTC's) can be found on the OMU's website. They are the only vendors you are allowed to receive your medicine from.

I don't like the products the MMTC near me has, what are my options?

There are currently 7 licensed MMTC's; 6 of those 7 are currently offering statewide delivery. Each MMTC is required to create an online menu so that patients may view their products before making a choice. The OMU is also required to license an additional 10 MMTC's by October 3, 2017 and an additional 4 for every 100,000 patients that are added to Medical Marijuana Use registry.

My Child/Parent is too sick to get medical marijuana for themselves, what can I do?

Become their caregiver. You must be a full-time Florida resident who has agreed to assist with a qualified patient's medical use of marijuana and registered by the OMU as a caregiver. You cannot be a qualified physician, be employed by or have an economic interest in a MMTC or a marijuana testing laboratory. For more information on becoming a caregiver please contact the OMU.

Can I use my medicine anywhere?

No, you may use low-THC marijuana on public transportation and in any public place. Medical marijuana must be done at home or a private residence. You may be able to use your medicine at your place of employment if your employer allows it.

It cannot be used on the grounds of a preschool, primary school or secondary school, except as provided in S.1006.062. Cannot be used on a school bus, a vehicle, an aircraft or a motor boat except for low-THC marijuana.

I'm pregnant, can I get medical marijuana?

Pregnant women can only be issued a certification for low-THC marijuana.

Can I just grow my own medical marijuana?

No, SB 8-A does not allow for patients to grow their own medicine.

HELPFUL LINKS:

Office of Medical Marijuana Use

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-medical-marijuana-use/index.html>

Qualified physicians (updates weekly)

http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-medical-marijuana-use/_documents/completed-cme.pdf

List of Licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-medical-marijuana-use/dispensing-organizations/index.html>