Navigating the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Program

In accordance with the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Therapeutic Act of 2014, some patients may now pursue medical cannabis as an alternative treatment for certain qualified conditions. The Office of Medical Cannabis (OMC) oversees the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Program.

The OMC seeks to provide medical cannabis treatments to qualified patients that are aligned with their established care plans, and within the context of their existing relationships with their certified health care practitioners.

1. **Register Yourself in the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Registry**

2. **Review Your Certified Patient's Records**

3. **Certify Your Patient's Medical Condition**

This guide is the second in a two-part series developed to help you navigate the program. Inside this brochure, discover:

- How to create an account and register yourself with the program
- What condition certification entails, including which documents you need to submit online or provide to your patient
- Where you may easily access program records for the patients you've certified

Explore your role in the program in greater detail in our companion brochure, *Health Care Practitioner Navigator 1: Your Role and Responsibilities.*

**FIND OUT MORE**

For your convenience, program-related resources including the latest legislative news, fact sheets and clinical research, are available on the OMC website, [mn.gov/medicalcannabis](http://mn.gov/medicalcannabis).

If you have additional questions, please call or e-mail the Office of Medical Cannabis.

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1. REGISTER YOURSELF WITH THE MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENT REGISTRY

Before you may certify qualified patients to participate in the program, you must create an account and register yourself as a health care practitioner with the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Patient Registry. Enrollment only takes a few minutes:

- Verify that your medical and DEA licenses are current
- Locate the general address and phone number for the primary clinic where you practice
- Visit the registry website: mn.gov/medicalcannabis
- Click the “registry log in/create account” link; then complete and submit the enrollment form

To help protect you against identity theft — and as a safeguard to ensure the integrity of the program — the OMC reviews all health care practitioner account requests. During the review process, an OMC employee will contact you twice: to verify your identity and to inform you when your account is approved. While you may see patients for condition certification appointments as soon as you are registered, the patients you certify will not be approved for certification until you have been verified by an OMC employee.

2. REVIEW YOUR CERTIFIED PATIENT’S RECORDS

In certifying that your patient has a qualifying illness, you are also attesting to your availability to manage his or her medical condition on an ongoing basis. As part of this commitment, you will need to review your patient’s program records periodically.

The “My Patients” view in the Patient Registry provides a single location where you may conveniently access program records for all of the patients you’ve certified, including dosage history and self-evaluation reports.

As a practitioner in the program, occasionally, you may be asked to report your findings on patients you’ve certified to the Health Commissioner. Cannabis Patient Centers will also collect findings. By documenting select qualitative data collected during patient visits, side effect indicators and patterns of effectiveness may be established.

THE OMC DOES NOT MAINTAIN OR ENDORSE A LIST OF HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS WHO ARE REGISTERED WITH THE PROGRAM, OR WHO SPECIALIZE IN CERTIFYING PATIENTS’ MEDICAL CONDITIONS. PATIENTS WHO BELIEVE THEY MEET PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS ENROLLMENT AND CONDITION CERTIFICATION WITH THEIR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER.

3. CERTIFY YOUR PATIENT’S MEDICAL CONDITION

All patients who wish to be considered for the program must have their medical condition certified by a qualified health care practitioner annually. When your patient schedules a condition certification appointment with you, these are the steps you’ll follow to certify his or her condition:

- Conduct a thorough physical exam
- Review your patient’s medical records, diagnostic tests and laboratory results to confirm his or her diagnosis
- Determine if your patient requires a caregiver, and indicate your determination on your patient’s certificate of diagnosis; consider whether he or she has a parent or legal guardian involved in his or her care, and/or is able to obtain and/or safely administer medical cannabis
- Develop an ongoing treatment plan for your patient’s qualifying medical condition
- Ask your patient for his or her signed Patient E-Mail and Acknowledgement form
- Provide your patient with a visit summary that includes a list of his or her prescribed medications and medical conditions
- Log in to the Patient Registry and click the “certify patient” link in the upper left corner of the screen
- Enter your patient’s e-mail address from the Patient E-Mail and Acknowledgement form

Once you have completed these steps, your role in your patient’s condition certification is complete. Please note: Patient’s application must be complete within 90 days of the certification. Condition certification is valid for one year.