Introducing the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Program

When Governor Dayton signed the Medical Cannabis Therapeutic Use Act into law in May 2014, Minnesota became the twenty-third state to legalize medical cannabis.

The Minnesota Department of Health’s Office of Medical Cannabis (OMC) oversees this program and is your resource for related policies and processes.

In its mission to educate Minnesotans about the program, the OMC published a series of informational brochures geared to each community served by this legislation, including: patients, caregivers and health care practitioners.

This guide was developed to help you and other public safety professionals in Minnesota:

- Learn more about the program:
  - Who is eligible?
  - Where is medical cannabis dispensed?
  - How is transport handled?
- Understand which medical cannabis formulations are available to registered patients in Minnesota
- Identify the program manufacturers’ product labels and packaging
- Locate additional resources

“What are the guidelines for transporting medical cannabis?”

There are certain regulations that must be adhered to during the transport of medical cannabis from manufacturers to dispensaries. These rules address: chain of custody, documentation, product packaging and employee/vendor handling.

“How can I tell if cannabis was legally obtained?”

The primary way to identify if cannabis was legally obtained is by checking the label on the container the medical cannabis is delivered in to the patient. Anyone legally allowed to handle the medical cannabis will have their name printed on the label.

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.

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

Minnesota Department of Health
Office of Medical Cannabis
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
(651) 201-5598 Metro
(844) 879-3381 Non-metro
health.cannabis@state.mn.us
“Who is eligible to participate in the program?”

Minnesota residents who suffer from at least one of the conditions (cancer\(^1\), glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, Tourette syndrome, ALS, Inflammatory Bowel disease, including Crohn’s disease, seizures/epilepsy, severe muscle spasm/MS, terminal illness with a probable life expectancy of less than one year, Intractable Pain, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Autism, Obstructive Sleep Apnea or Alzheimer’s disease) certified by a health care practitioner who is registered with the program may be eligible to participate.

Qualified patients who take part must:
- Have their medical condition certified by a registered health care practitioner with whom they have an established relationship, and who will actively participate in their treatment plan
- Pay for medical cannabis out-of-pocket, as at this time, it is not covered by insurance
- Comply with these annual requirements:
  - Meet with a registered health care practitioner to have their medical condition recertified
  - Pay an annual registration fee

“Where do patients pick up their medicine?”

There are eight Cannabis Patient Centers located throughout Minnesota in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Eagan, Bloomington, Rochester, Moorhead, St. Cloud and Hibbing. Patients are encouraged to schedule an appointment before visiting a Cannabis Patient Center. Non-registered patients or visitors, including children, may not enter Cannabis Patient Centers.

\(^1\) To qualify for the Program, patients with cancer or a terminal illness, with a probable life expectancy of under one year qualify for the program, if illness or its treatment produces one or more of the following: severe or chronic pain; nausea or severe vomiting; or cachexia or severe wasting.

“Which companies manufacture medical cannabis for the program?”

The OMC has partnered with two manufacturers to grow, process and distribute medical cannabis for the Program: LeafLine Labs http://leaflinelabs.com/ and Minnesota Medical Solutions http://www.minnesotamedicalsolutions.com/

Both companies are registered with the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Registry through the Minnesota Department of Health.

“Which companies manufacture medical cannabis for the program?”

The OMC has partnered with two manufacturers to grow, process and distribute medical cannabis for the Program: LeafLine Labs http://leaflinelabs.com/ and Minnesota Medical Solutions http://www.minnesotamedicalsolutions.com/

Both companies are registered with the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Registry through the Minnesota Department of Health.

“Which companies manufacture medical cannabis for the program?”

The OMC has partnered with two manufacturers to grow, process and distribute medical cannabis for the Program: LeafLine Labs http://leaflinelabs.com/ and Minnesota Medical Solutions http://www.minnesotamedicalsolutions.com/

Both companies are registered with the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Registry through the Minnesota Department of Health.