

# Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program



# Welcome to Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's vision is to have a high quality, efficient and compliant medical marijuana program for commonwealth residents with serious medical conditions as defined by Act 16.

## KEY ASPECT #1

The patient

## KEY ASPECT #2

Administration of the Law

## KEY ASPECT #3

A highly monitored supply chain,  
with departmental oversight

# Medical Marijuana Program Mission

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is in the process of implementing the Commonwealth's Medical Marijuana Program, signed into law on April 17, 2016.

When fully implemented, the Medical Marijuana Program will provide access to medical marijuana for patients with a serious medical condition through a safe and effective method of distribution that balances patient need for access to the latest treatments with patient care and safety.

The Medical Marijuana Program will also promote high quality research into the efficacy of medical marijuana in treating a patient's serious medical condition.

# The Formal Act



## PASSAGE/ENACTMENT

The Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf, which authorized the Pennsylvania Department of Health to create the Office of Medical Marijuana. Full implementation of the program is expected to take between 18 and 24 months.



## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The program is being administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health who will enforce the act, issue medical marijuana cards to registered patients/caregivers and issue permits to grower/producers and dispensaries within the Commonwealth.



## PATIENTS

Under the Medical Marijuana Program, patients, who are residents of the Commonwealth and have a serious medical condition as certified by a physician, will be able to obtain medical marijuana at approved dispensaries in the Commonwealth with their Department-issued medical marijuana ID card.

# Key Participants

Each of the participants shown below plays an important role in Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program.



**Grower/Processor**



**Laboratory**



**Caregiver**



**Practitioner**



**Dispensary**



**Patient**

# Patient Details

An individual must satisfy the three qualifications below in order to be a patient under Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program:



**Have a serious  
medical condition**



**Meet the requirements  
for certification under  
the act**



**Be a resident of the  
Commonwealth of  
Pennsylvania**



# Patients and Caregivers Overview

**Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program was created to provide a medically-focused program that benefits patients.**



Once a patient is issued a medical marijuana ID card, the individual can obtain medical marijuana product in accordance with the recommendation on their patient certificate.

A patient can designate a caregiver to obtain their medical marijuana product. A caregiver must be at least 21 years old, register with the Department, complete a background check and be issued their own medical marijuana ID card.

Minors, homebound individuals and patients with a designated caregiver will have the caregiver obtain their medical marijuana product at an approved dispensary.

A registered caregiver may be designated by up to five patients; a patient can designate up to two caregivers.

# How Patients Register

A patient must register with the Department of Health and be issued a patient certification by a registered practitioner before becoming eligible to receive an ID card and obtain medical marijuana product from a dispensary.

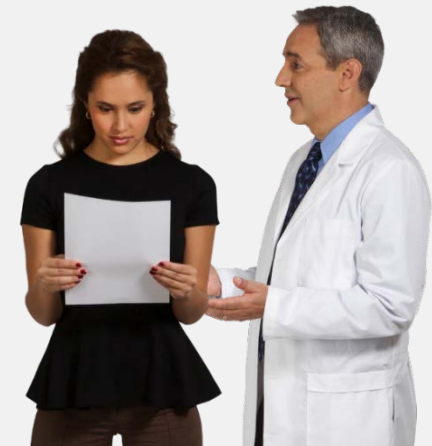
Register with the  
Department



Consult with a  
registered  
practitioner to  
assess if medical  
marijuana is  
appropriate



Be issued  
a patient  
certification and  
finish ID card  
registration





# Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program

Helpdesk Contact: 888-733-5595

## New Users

Click appropriate hyperlink below to register with the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program Registry

### **Providers:**

- [Physician Registration](#)
- [Medical Professional Registration](#)

### **Patients:**

- [Adult Patient Registration](#)

### **Caregivers:**

- [Adult Patient Caregiver Registration](#)
- [Caregiver registration for individuals requiring in-home support, for a minor, or for a person with a disability \(New Caregiver registering for existing patient\)](#)
- [Caregiver registration for individuals requiring in-home support, for a minor, or for a person with a disability \(New Caregiver registering for a new patient\)](#)
- [DOH Approved Caregiver Registration](#)

## Returning Users

Please sign in below using the system credentials assigned during your registration process.

Sign in to your account

Username

Password

Remember Me

Log In

Note: Username and Password are case sensitive

[Forgot your username or password?](#)

# Practitioner Overview

A practitioner is a physician who has registered with the Department of Health under section 401 of the Act (35 P.S. § 10231.401) to issue patient certifications. A physician may register as a practitioner by meeting the following criteria:



Hold a valid, unexpired, unrevoked, unsuspended Pennsylvania license to practice medicine;

Demonstrate to the Department by training or expertise that he or she is qualified in treating serious medical conditions;

Apply to the Department to be registered with the program; and

Successfully complete the required four-hour course established by the Department.

# 17 Original Conditions Covered

The following serious medical conditions were selected under Act 16.

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- 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 (Positive status)
- Huntington's disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Intractable seizures
- Multiple sclerosis (MS)
- Neuropathies
- Parkinson's disease
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- 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

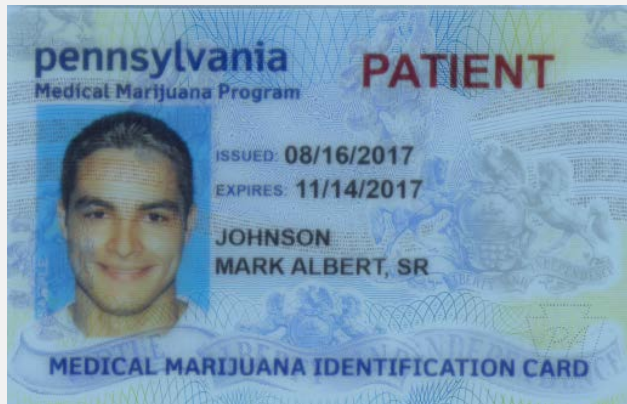
# 21 Revised Conditions Covered

These serious medical conditions were revised and became effective on May 17, 2018

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Autism
- Cancer, including remission therapy
- Crohn's disease
- Damage to the nervous tissue of the central nervous system (brain-spinal cord) with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity, and other associated neuropathies
- Dyskinetic and spastic movement disorders
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma
- HIV / AIDS
- Huntington's disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Intractable seizures
- Multiple sclerosis
- Neurodegenerative diseases
- Neuropathies
- Opioid use disorder for which conventional therapeutic interventions are contraindicated or ineffective, or for which adjunctive therapy is indicated in combination with primary therapeutic interventions
- Parkinson's disease
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable pain
- Sickle cell anemia
- Terminal illness

# Medical Marijuana ID Card (Patient)

Patients who are over the age of 18 and who are not homebound will be issued an ID card that they can use at a dispensary to obtain medical marijuana product.



## Patient Certification

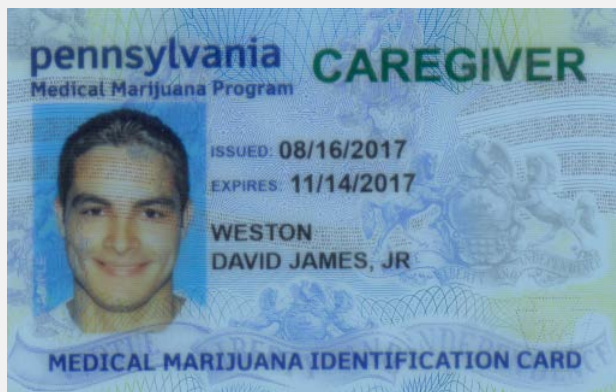
Patients must be certified by a registered and approved practitioner in the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program to be eligible for an ID card.

## ID Card Renewal

The Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana ID card is valid for up to one year; patients must have a practitioner issue a new patient certification at each renewal.

# Medical Marijuana ID Card (Caregiver)

Caregivers may serve patients under the age of 18 and patients who are unable to obtain medical marijuana product without assistance.



## No Card for Minors

No qualified patient under the age of 18 will be issued an ID Card; minors will have a designated caregiver who may be a parent, legal guardian, or a designee approved by the Department.

## Homebound Patients

Patients unable to obtain medical marijuana independently will not be issued an ID card. Patients who are homebound will have a designated caregiver to obtain their medical marijuana.

# How will my child take their medical marijuana at school?



**Recommended guidance:** A parent, legal guardian or caregiver may administer medical marijuana to their child/student on school premises, provided that they:

- provide the school principal with documentation; **and**
- notify the school principal, in advance, of each instance on which the parent or caregiver will administer the medical marijuana to the child/student.

# Available Forms

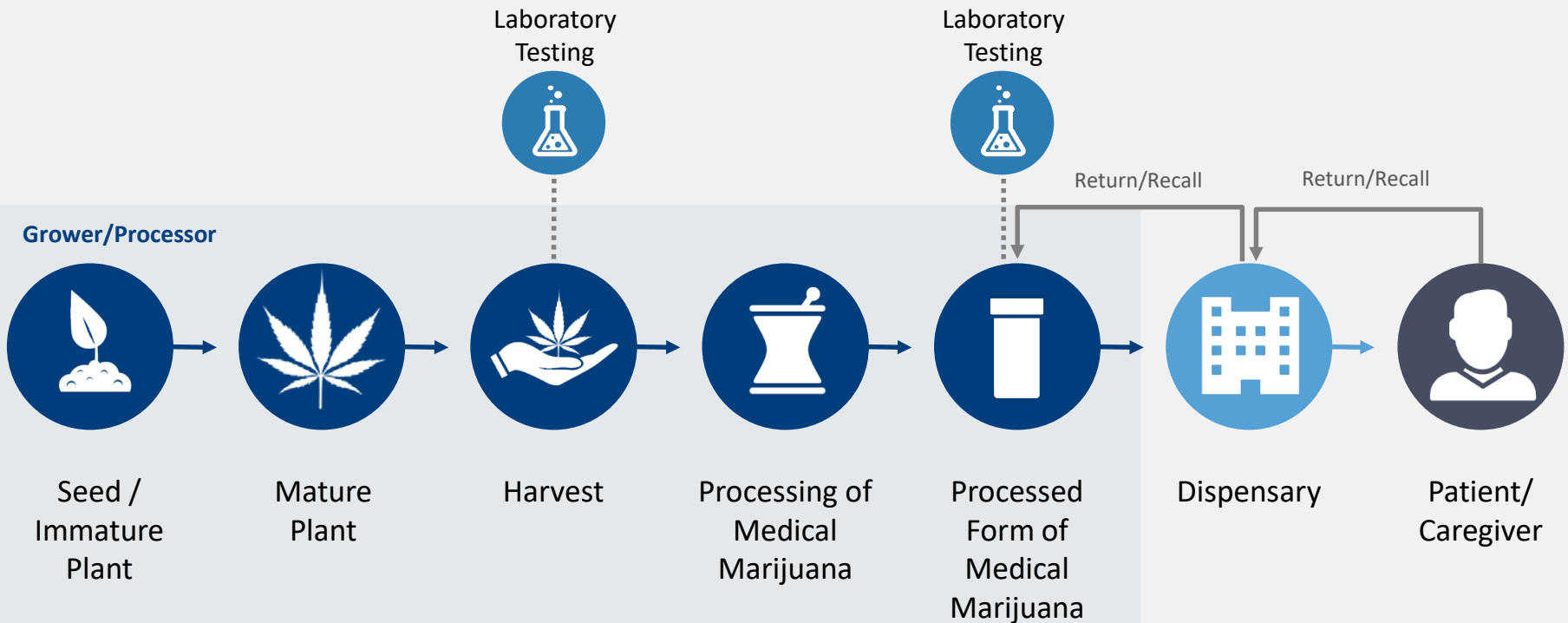
Grower/processors may only manufacture the forms of medical marijuana listed within Act 16. A dispensary may only purchase permitted forms from an approved grower/processor and then dispense those forms to approved patients or caregivers.





# The Supply Chain

This graphic describes the transition from medical marijuana seeds and immature plants through processing and manufacturing of medical marijuana product to the dispensing to patients.



*When fully implemented, the Medical Marijuana Program will provide access to medical marijuana for patients with a serious medical condition through a safe and effective method of distribution that balances patient need for access to the latest treatments with patient care and safety.*

# Grower/Processor Overview



Establish and maintain the proper facilities to securely and safely cultivate the growth of medical marijuana plants



Establish and operate the proper facilities to transform the principal chemicals (cannabinoids) of medical marijuana into safe products

# Grower/Processor Overview cont.

There are many critical roles necessary to efficiently operate a grower/processor facility.



Individuals have the opportunity to specialize in horticulture, extraction, processing, transportation or administrative functions.

Employees will work in a secure facility with video surveillance and badge access to the building and to specific areas.

No one under the age of 18 is allowed on premise, and any visitor must gain special permission.

Department officials and inspectors may visit the facility at any time to ensure statutory and regulatory compliance.

# Laboratory Overview



Ensure that medical marijuana adheres to its chemical labeling so that patients receive the correct dosage and form to treat their conditions.



Approved medical marijuana laboratories collect samples to test for contaminants and potency after harvest and after the final processing.

# Dispensary Overview



Dispense medical marijuana product to registered patients and caregivers for the treatment of serious medical conditions.



Maintain clean, efficient, secure, and safe facilities to ensure that medical marijuana product is not diverted from patients/caregivers.

# Dispensary Overview cont.

**Every dispensary operation must employ a medical professional who has completed the required 4-hour training and registered with the Department.**



If a dispensary has multiple locations as designated by their primary permit, a physician assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner can serve as the medical professional, provided they are registered and have completed the required 4-hour training course.

A medical professional shall be present during all hours that the facility is open and offering to dispense, to provide consultative advice to a patient.

A practitioner or physician may not issue a patient certification at the dispensary facility.

# Phase I & II Grower Processor Locations



🚩 Phase I    🚩 Phase II

*Map identifies county of each facility, not exact location.*

# Update

- Completed temporary regulations for growers/processors, dispensaries, physicians, patients and laboratories, all which have been published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.
- Issued Phase I permits to 27 dispensaries and 12 grower/processors.
- Issued Phase II permits to 13 grower/processors and 23 dispensaries.
- \_\_\_ grower/processors and \_\_\_ dispensaries have been approved as operational.



# Update

- Developed the Medical Marijuana Physician Workgroup.
- Convened the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board, issued a final report, and adopted all approved recommendations.
- Approved six training providers for physician and medical professional continuing-education.
- Approved four laboratories to test medication before it is delivered to patients.
- Published Act 43 Chapter 20 temporary regulations.

# Update

- Launched registries for patients and caregivers, as well as physicians.
  - Over \_\_\_\_\_ **Patients** and nearly \_\_\_\_\_ Caregivers have registered, almost \_\_\_\_\_ Patients are certified by a Practitioner with greater than \_\_\_\_\_ **Patient dispensing activities** to date.
  - More than \_\_\_\_\_ **Physicians** have registered and nearly \_\_\_\_\_ Physicians have completed the required training to become Approved Practitioners in the Medical Marijuana program.

# Next Steps

- Continue to encourage Physicians to register.
- Continue to educate Patients and Caregivers.
- Continue to issue Medical Marijuana ID cards.
- Operationalize all permitted facilities.
- Carry out Phase II for G/Ps and Dispensaries.
- Implement the Chapter 20 Research program.

# Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Program



Visit our website for updates on implementation.  
[www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov](http://www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov)

To contact the staff at the Pennsylvania Office of Medical Marijuana, send an email to [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov)