



The following guidance is provided by the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) to assist existing medical cannabis program participants to understand State laws and regulations governing the medical program. This document is not legal advice. It is meant to highlight operational changes for **the medical cannabis program**. Please consult an attorney if you have any questions regarding the legal requirements that apply.

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Recent updates to State law under the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article and to MCA regulations impact the Maryland medical cannabis program. Additionally, the MCA has adopted regulations under COMAR 14.17 to replace Maryland's existing medical program regulations codified in COMAR 10.62.

*Recent updates to statute include:*

- Permission for standard dispensaries and delivery registrants to continue delivering medical cannabis to qualified patients and registered caregivers is extended through June 30, 2025. (Md. Code Ann., Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis § 36-401(g))
- A qualifying patient may possess up to the amount of cannabis or cannabis-infused products that is authorized in their written certification, even if it exceeds the personal use amount established under Criminal Law Article, § 5-101(u). (Md. Code Ann., Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis § 36-302(g))

*Recent updates to regulations include:*

- Patients and caregivers are no longer required to purchase MCA-issued identification cards. There is no cost to register as a patient or caregiver unless an individual wishes to obtain an identification card.
- Effective July 1, 2024, a dispensary that chooses to provide a dedicated service line for patients and caregivers must make a good faith effort to prioritize patients and caregivers waiting in line over adult-use consumers.
- Standard dispensaries are not required to appoint a clinical director until they have been operational for two years. This does not impact any currently operational licensees.
  - Micro dispensaries are exempted from the clinical director requirement entirely.
- Public hearings for new condition approval requests will be held as needed, rather than annually. The process for submitting a petition remains unchanged.
- In accordance with Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Article, §36-301(f), Annotated Code of Maryland, which prohibits a certifying provider from receiving compensation from a licensee, MCA will no longer accept requests for approval of compensation of any kind.
- Coming soon: Compassionate Use Fund guidelines

## **Patient Registration and Identification**

Effective July 1, 2024, patient registration is free and identification cards are optional. Once their registration is approved, a qualifying patient will receive an electronic patient identification document via email. Any qualifying patient who wishes to receive a plastic identification card as well may purchase one for \$25 at any time through their OneStop account. MCA will waive the identification card fee for individuals who verify their Maryland Medicaid or Veterans Administration Maryland Health Care System. All minor and hospice patients will continue to receive their patient identification cards automatically, for free.

*What does this mean for patient ID checks at the point of sale?*

At a dispensary, a patient who wishes to purchase medical cannabis must present a valid government-issued photo identification **and** either their medical patient ID card or ID number.

## **Patient Accommodations**

To ensure patients and caregivers continue to have access to their medicine, dispensaries are required to comply with the requirements in this section.

- **Service accommodations:** Reserve patient hours for medical-only dispensing or designated lanes for medical sales. If a dispensary chooses to provide a dedicated service line for patients and caregivers, they must make a good faith effort to prioritize patients and caregivers waiting in line over adult-use consumers.
- **Product reservations:** Dispensaries must reserve certain products for medical patients, including:
  - Concentrated cannabis products with a total product weight of greater than 1 gram (except for vapes and infused pre-rolls);
  - Other cannabis products including edibles, capsules, and tinctures with greater than 10 mg of THC per serving or 100 mg of THC per package.
    - *Note: Patients are still able to purchase any product available at the dispensary, regardless of type or potency, tax-free.*

## **Compassionate Use Fund – Coming Soon!**

The purpose of the Compassionate Use Fund is to reduce the cost of obtaining a medical assessment to determine the appropriateness of treatment with cannabis for individuals enrolled in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program or in the Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System. Certifying providers may offer a \$50 discount off the provider's standard fee to provide a medical assessment. The MCA will reimburse certifying providers who participate in this program.

The MCA is finalizing guidelines for this program and will issue further guidance when it is available.

## **Questions?**

For patient or caregiver inquiries, including registration or ID card concerns, please contact [mca.infoandregistration@maryland.gov](mailto:mca.infoandregistration@maryland.gov). To submit policy questions related to cannabis regulations, legislation, issued guidance, or licensing, please use the [MCA Policy Question Intake form](#). MCA will review submissions and publish an updated FAQ document on the [Laws and Regulations page](#) on the first day of each month.