



Maryland Medical Cannabis Patient Registration Guide

Navigating Maryland's Medical Cannabis Program

Registration? Certification? Renewal? What's the difference? Navigating Maryland's Medical Cannabis Program can feel like learning a new language. A common mistake patients make is confusing their State Registration (which lasts 6 years) with their Provider Certification (which lasts 1 year). If you let either one lapse, you won't be able to purchase cannabis through the medical patient program.

THE STATE STEP

Registration

Your Official MCA Profile

Registration is how the state of Maryland verifies your identity and residency. Think of it as opening your official account.





Who handles it

The Maryland Cannabis Administration
(via the OneStop portal)

What it does
Generates your unique
MCA Patient ID Number



Lifespan

Valid for **6 years** for adult patients

The Cost

Free to submit your application;
\$25 if you choose to order a
physical plastic ID card later



THE MEDICAL STEP

Certification

Your Healthcare Provider's Approval

Certification is the actual medical recommendation. You cannot get certified until your state registration is approved. Your certification will become void if you don't purchase from a dispensary within 120 days of it being issued.





Who handles it

An MCA-registered healthcare provider
(doctor, nurse practitioner, etc.)

What it does

Approves you to purchase as a medical
cannabis patient and sets your rolling
30-day purchasing allotment



Lifespan

Valid for 1 year

Pro-tip:

Your annual provider certification visit is an opportunity to review any health changes and concerns and ask questions about your medical use of cannabis.



THE MAINTENANCE STEP

Renewal

Keeping Your Access Active

“Renewal” is the process of updating your Registration or Certification before they expire. Because they have different lifespans, you have two different clocks ticking!





Certification Renewal

Must be completed **annually** by visiting a registered provider for your certifying medical condition

Registration Renewal

Must be completed every **6 years** by logging back into your Maryland OneStop portal



Pro-Tip:

Don't wait until the last minute! Initiate your renewals 30 to 60 days before expiration to avoid a lapse in your ability to purchase as a medical cannabis patient.



KEY DIFFERENCES AT A GLANCE

Comparing the Big Three

Feature	Registration	Certification	Renewal
What is it?	Creating your state profile	Getting doctor approval	Extending your active status
Who handles it?	MD OneStop Portal	Registered Provider	You + OneStop or Provider
How long does it last?	6 Years	1 Year	N/A
Is a healthcare professional required?	No	Yes	Only for Certification Renewal

THE ORDER OF OPERATIONS

How it All Connects

To successfully become and remain a patient, you must follow this exact order:

