



ACTIVATION OF THE PATIENT AND CAREGIVER REGISTRY

As the medical marijuana industry continues to build out during its start-up phase, it is important to ensure patients and caregivers are aware of the status of the program and what to expect.

Availability of Product

We anticipate that Ohio's experience will be the same as in other states that launched programs before us. **Once product initially becomes available, it is important to be aware that the supply, variety and statewide availability of medical marijuana products will be limited for the rest of 2018 and possibly into the early months of 2019.**

One cultivator with a certificate of operation has indicated it may have a small batch of medical marijuana – in plant form only – in the coming weeks. Not all dispensary locations will be open at first; dispensaries will continue to open into early 2019.

Status of the Patient and Caregiver Registry

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy activated the Patient and Caregiver Registry to align with the availability of the first product for sale. It is important that these dates are aligned due to the Affirmative Defense provisions.

Ohio's medical marijuana law established for a patient, under specified conditions, an affirmative defense to the following criminal charges: knowingly obtaining, possessing, or using marijuana or knowingly using or possessing marijuana drug paraphernalia. These provisions will expire on February 1, 2019 or 60 days after the Patient and Caregiver Registry was activated. More information on the affirmative defense provision can be found [here](#) (see page 14).

How to Prepare for Activation of the Patient and Caregiver Registry

It's important that patients, the medical community and dispensary operators are prepared for the Patient and Caregiver Registry and the availability of medical marijuana. The information below will help you prepare:

Patients and Caregivers:

Getting medical marijuana through Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program involves three steps:

1. Visit an Ohio physician who can certify that you have a qualifying condition. Review the list [qualifying conditions](#) and [find a physician](#) who is certified to recommend medical marijuana.
 - When you visit the doctor, be sure to take government-issued identification with you. As a reminder, all patients are required to have a government-issued identification, including minors. Accepted forms of identification include any of the following: (1) an unexpired Ohio driver's license; (2) unexpired Ohio identification card issued by the Ohio bureau of motor vehicles; or (3) unexpired United States passport or United States passport card. Review this information about [how to obtain an Ohio ID card for a minor](#).
 - If the patient is a minor, their caregiver must also register in the Patient and Caregiver Registry.



2. Once you have received your recommendation from your physician, your physician's office will enter you into the Patient and Caregiver Registry.
 - You will receive an email to complete your registration. Click on the link in the email to access the registry to confirm your information and pay for your card. Patients will pay an annual \$50 registration fee and caregivers will pay \$25.
 - Download your card. You can print a copy or show an electronic version on your cell phone when at a dispensary.
 - Discounts are available for patients and caregivers who are veterans or low-income individuals. [Additional documentation](#) must be submitted to receive a discount.
3. Purchase medical marijuana from an approved dispensary in Ohio. Once dispensaries begin to open, they will be listed on the [Medical Marijuana Control Program's website](#). Remember to bring your government-issued ID and Patient Registry Card.
4. Use and store medical marijuana safely. Do not use medical marijuana while driving or operating machinery and store your medical marijuana in its original container out of the reach of children and those not authorized to use medical marijuana. If you need to report an adverse reaction, call the Medical Marijuana Control Program Toll-Free Helpline at 1-833-4OH-MMCP (1-833-464-6627).

[These informational videos](#) – one for patients and one for caregivers – offer more information. If you have additional questions, please contact the Medical Marijuana Control Program Toll-Free Helpline at 1-833-4OH-MMCP (1-833-464-6627).

Physicians with a Certificate to Recommend:

- Learn how to [register a patient or caregiver into the Patient and Caregiver Registry](#).
- Review the State Medical Board of Ohio's [Standard of Care rules](#).
- Be aware – and advise your patients – of the likelihood of medical marijuana availability and potential product shortages during the industry's start-up phase.

Dispensaries:

- Have all dispensary employees review [this registry guide video for dispensary employees](#) so they are aware of their responsibilities.
- Make sure all [dispensary employees are licensed by the Board of Pharmacy](#).

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, the Ohio Department of Commerce and the State Medical Board of Ohio will continue to work toward the Medical Marijuana Control Program's goal of ensuring safe, stable, reliable sources of medical marijuana for Ohio's patient community.