

Requirements for Medical Marijuana Patients



The Rhode Island Medical Marijuana Act

People who live in Rhode Island and have a debilitating medical condition may use marijuana if a medical doctor certifies **in writing** that:

- Marijuana may ease their symptoms, **and**
- Potential benefits of using marijuana would likely outweigh the health risks to the patient

Registered patients may designate **one** caregiver and **one** authorized purchaser. To learn about authorized purchasers, go to www.health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=280#ap.

The law requires caregivers and authorized purchasers to get a background check from the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC). Caregivers and authorized purchasers can be disqualified for felony convictions including, but not limited to, felony drug convictions.

Approved qualifying debilitating medical conditions

These are the only approved conditions:

- Cancer or cancer treatment including chemotherapy, radiation, etc.
- Glaucoma or glaucoma treatment
- Positive status for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or treatment for HIV
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or treatment for AIDS
- Hepatitis C or treatment for Hepatitis C
- Cachexia or wasting syndrome
- Severe, debilitating, chronic pain



- Severe nausea
- Seizures, including but not limited to those characteristic of epilepsy
- Severe and persistent muscle spasms, including but not limited to those characteristic of:
 - Multiple sclerosis
 - Crohn's disease
- Agitation related to Alzheimer's Disease
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – patient must be 18 or older

Requirements for patients

Ask your doctor if your medical condition qualifies for an application and if medical marijuana makes sense for you.

1. Must live in Rhode Island and submit a **copy** of **one** proof of residency that includes your name and current address, such as:
 - Rhode Island driver's license
 - State ID
 - Current car insurance bill, voter registration or any correspondence from another state agency
2. Must complete and sign a patient application form. Find the form at www.health.ri.gov/forms/registration/MedicalMarijuanaNewApplication.pdf.
3. Must have an MD, DO, PA, or APRN who is licensed to practice in Rhode Island fill out and sign a practitioner form. In Massachusetts or Connecticut, only a licensed MD or DO can fill out and sign the practitioner form. Find the form at www.health.ri.gov/forms/registration/MedicalMarijuanaPractitionerForm.pdf.
4. Must pay a **\$50** non-refundable patient application fee. There is no fee if your doctor states in writing that you qualify for hospice. The fee is **\$25** if you send proof with your application that you receive one of these benefits:
 - Medicaid
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
 - Veterans disability
 - Federal railroad disability

You can get proof of your SSI or SSDI benefit at www.ssa.gov.





5. Must state on the application whether you plan to grow medical marijuana plants for yourself. Patients who will grow marijuana must register their grow location with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation.
6. Extra requirements for patients younger than 18 years old
 - Must designate (name) a custodial parent or legal guardian as their primary caregiver or authorized purchaser
 - Must complete, sign, and submit a minor application form with the above listed patient application form. Find the minor application form at www.health.ri.gov/forms/registration/MedicalMarijuanaNewApplication.pdf.

Growing marijuana

Patients who grow marijuana must buy plant tags from the Department of Business Regulation (DBR). All growers must follow DBR regulations for tag use. To read the rules, go to www.dbr.ri.gov/divisions/medicalmarijuana.

To learn more, go to www.health.ri.gov/healthcare/medicalmarijuana/for/patients.

