

# 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 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. A caregiver can grow their own marijuana or buy marijuana from a compassion center and may have up to five patients. An authorized purchaser can only buy marijuana at a compassion center and may only have one patient.

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 approved conditions for patients:

- Cancer or cancer treatment, including chemotherapy or radiation
- Glaucoma or glaucoma treatment
- Positive status for HIV or treatment for HIV
- 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 (MS) or 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. A patient must live in Rhode Island and must submit a **current copy** of one proof of residency that includes your name and address, such as a:
  - Rhode Island driver's license
  - Rhode Island State ID

**If your driver's license or State ID does not show a current address, you will need to also provide a current copy of one of the following documents:**

  - Any correspondence from another State agency, current vehicle registration, current car insurance bill, or voter's registration.

This additional document must show a recent date, your name, and a current address.
2. A patient must complete and sign a *Medical Marijuana Patient Application* by creating an account in the online portal ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)).
3. The patient must have a completed and signed *Practitioner Written Certification Form* that they can upload to their online account. The Form must be signed by a Rhode Island-licensed MD, DO, PA, or APRN or an MD or DO who is licensed in either Connecticut or Massachusetts. Their signature indicates they believe the patient could benefit from the Program based on their medical condition(s). You can download and print a blank form from <https://health.ri.gov/forms/mmp/practitioner-written-certification.pdf>.
4. The patient must state on their application whether they plan to grow medical marijuana plants for themselves. Patients who grow marijuana must have a Plant Tag Certificate that is issued by the Office of Cannabis Regulation at the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation. Visit the website of the Office of Cannabis Regulation at <https://dbr.ri.gov/office-cannabis-regulation>.
5. If the patient is younger than 18, there are extra requirements, including:
  - Must designate (name) a custodial parent or legal guardian as their primary caregiver or authorized purchaser;
  - The custodial parent or legal guardian can create an account on the online portal ([www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov](http://www.cannabislicensing.ri.gov)) on behalf of the minor patient.
  - Once the online application is completed, the custodial parent or legal guardian must complete, sign, and upload the *Minor Form*. Find the minor application form at <https://health.ri.gov/forms/minor-form.pdf>.

## Growing marijuana

Patients who grow marijuana must have a Plant Tag Certificate that is issued by the Office of Cannabis Regulation at the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation. To learn more, visit the website of the Office of Cannabis Regulation at <https://dbr.ri.gov/office-cannabis-regulation>.

To learn more, go to [www.health.ri.gov/healthcare/medicalmarijuana/for/patients](http://www.health.ri.gov/healthcare/medicalmarijuana/for/patients).

