

Medical Marijuana Program Implementation Status Update

Dispensaries Selected for Grand Forks and Williston Regions:

The Division received final scores from the review panel tasked with evaluating and scoring complete dispensary applications and selected two entities to move forward with the registration process in the Grand Forks and Williston regions. We-Mend LLC will be operating as Strive Life and will locate their facility in Grand Forks. HOFW, LLC (Harvest of Williston) will be located in Williston.

According to state law, Strive Life and HOFW, LLC must meet additional requirements before being issued a registration certificate from the NDDoH. Qualifying patients and designated caregivers may purchase dried leaves and flowers and medical marijuana products from any registered dispensary within the state. Dispensaries may receive inventory from either of the two registered manufacturing facilities under the Medical Marijuana Program

Patient and Designated Caregiver Applications:

Applications for patients and designated caregivers are open. There is no closing date for patient or designated caregiver applications, so applicants can apply any time. The Division encourages those wishing to apply to read the instructions and watch the video tutorials posted on the website to be prepared when completing the online application.

All resources, including an updated frequently asked questions (FAQs) document pertaining to patient applications, can be found on the Division website or by clicking [here](#). There are separate instructions and video tutorials for patients (19 years and older), minor patients (under 19 years old), designated caregivers, and health care providers.

Health Care Providers and the Written Certification Process:

The Division has received questions about the online patient application. Many of these questions are regarding the qualifying patient's health care provider and the written certification. The Division is often asked if they can provide a name or list of health care providers who are willing to sign a written certification. According to state law, information

contained in a patient application, including the health care provider's name, is confidential and cannot be released.

What is the Written Certification:

- Mandatory form/information completed by the health care provider as part of the patient application.
- Can only be signed if a bona fide provider-patient relationship exists.
- Can only be signed by a Physician licensed through the North Dakota Board of Medicine or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensed through the North Dakota Board of Nursing.
- **NOT** a prescription.
- States that in the health care provider's professional opinion, the patient is likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the medical use of marijuana.

Health Care Provider Email Address:

Health care providers who have questions regarding the Medical Marijuana Program and the written certification process can call or email the Division for more information. Many providers ask why their facility or work email address is required as part of the patient application. Staff at the Division can help explain the reason the email address is required as well as talk through potential options.

Questions on the application forms or process?

Contact us at 701.328.1311 or medmarijuana@nd.gov

Question: Can a health care provider rescind a written certification for a qualifying patient after they have submitted it to the Division of Medical Marijuana?

Answer: Yes. If a health care provider no longer believes the patient will receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the medical use of marijuana, or the patient no longer has a debilitating medical condition that qualifies them for the program, the health care provider must notify the Division in writing. In addition, if a patient is non-compliant and the existence of a bona fide provider-patient relationship ceases to exist, the health care provider should notify the Division in writing.