Washington State Medical Marijuana Authorization Form Guidelines and Instructions

This guidance document is intended to clarify the requirements and purpose of a medical marijuana authorization form per chapter 69.51A RCW.

Guidance and Resources

- To issue a Medical Marijuana Authorization (authorization) to your patient, current Washington State regulations require a healthcare practitioner to have a Washington State-issued license as defined under RCW 69.51A.010(5).
- Refer to professional practice standards established by the regulating Washington State Boards and Commissions:
  - Medical Marijuana Authorization Guidelines
  - Medical Marijuana Authorization Guidelines (Washington Medical Commission)
- All authorizations must be completed and signed by the healthcare practitioner and printed on the required authorization tamper-resistant paper containing the RCW 69.51A.030 logo.
- Use the current Medical marijuana authorization form (PDF) (DOH 630-123 November 2019)
- Do not mail, email or fax a copy to the Department of Health.
- Keep a copy of the authorization in the patient’s medical record.
- Original authorization is provided to the patient for their records. The healthcare practitioner will issue two original authorizations if patient has a designated provider, even if they reside at the same address.

Authorization Form Instructions has three sections.

- **Section I – Patient and Designated Provider (DP) Information:**
  - Patient must be a resident of Washington per RCW 69.51A.010(19).
  - A designated provider must be age 21 or older and is typically the patient’s care giver or the parent or legal guardian of a qualifying patient who is under the age of eighteen.
  - Item 1 and 2 - Use full legal name of the patient and DP (if the patient has one). No nicknames. “Street address” means the physical street address for the person’s residence where plants may be grown under RCW 69.51A.210. DO NOT use a post office box.
  - Item 7 - Adult patients (age 18 and older) who have a DP must sign per RCW 69.51A.010. Minor patients and their DP (parent/legal guardian) are not required to sign.

- **Section II – Healthcare Practitioner Information:**
  - Item 8 - Use full name listed on Washington State-issued healthcare practitioner license.
  - Item 9 - Address must be the business location from which the authorization was issued. Enter phone number where the authorization can be verified during normal business hours as required under RCW 69.51A.030(3).

- **Section III – Healthcare Practitioner’s certification and recommendation:**
  - Item 11 – When renewing a qualifying patient’s authorization, the health care practitioner may indicate on the form (line item 11) that “Yes” the patient qualifies for a compassionate care renewal of his or her registration in the medical marijuana authorization database and recognition card. Marking “Yes” on the form will exempt the patient from the
photograph requirement of the recognition card creation process and allows the patient’s designated provider to renew the patient’s registration and card on the patient’s behalf per RCW 69.51A.030(2)(c).

- Item 12 – With an authorization, a patient is allowed to grow up to four plants within their domicile; if registered, the patient may grow up to six plants. However, under RCW 69.51A.030, a practitioner may recommend additional plants (no more than 15 plants) to meet the patient’s medical needs but requires the patient to register in the Medical Marijuana Authorization Database and obtain a recognition card – RCW 69.51A.210.

- Item 13 - For a qualifying patient eighteen years of age or older, an authorization expires one year after its issuance. For a qualifying patient less than eighteen years of age, an authorization expires six months after its issuance.

**Information to share with Patients and Designated Providers:**

A qualifying patient (or their designated provider) may:

- With a medical marijuana authorization, a patient or their designated provider may grow up to four plants within their domicile.
- If registered into the Medical Marijuana Authorization Database, a patient or their designated provider may grow up to six plants, or additional plants if authorized by their healthcare practitioner.
- Adult patients (18 or over) with a valid authorization may voluntarily join the medical marijuana authorization database (database) to receive a medical marijuana recognition card and benefits.
- Minor patients (under 18) and their DP (parent/legal guardian) are required to join the database.
- To register in the database, a patient may schedule an appointment with a Medical Marijuana Consultant at a nearby medically-endorsed retail store who may assist the patient with the registration process and issue a recognition card. Note: Unless compassionate care renewal eligible, the adult or minor patient and their designated provider are required to be registered together and will be required to bring with them their valid authorization form and state-issued identification.

A qualifying patient (or their designated provider) may not:

- Sell, donate, or otherwise supply the patient’s marijuana to another person, except as authorized in RCW 69.50.4013.
- Use or display marijuana in a manner or place that is open to the view of the general public.
- Grow, possess, or use marijuana on federal property.
- Grow more than 15 plants in any one housing unit even if multiple qualifying patients or designated providers reside in the housing unit, unless growing within a cooperative registered with the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB), which allows a maximum of 60 plants (up to 15 per participant).
- Grow, store, produce, or process marijuana or marijuana-infused products if any portion of such activity can be readily seen by normal unaided vision or readily smelled from a public place or the private property of another housing unit.

Questions?
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