Medical Marijuana Authorization Form Guidelines and Instructions

These instructions intend to clarify requirements and purpose of a medical marijuana authorization form per chapter 69.51A RCW.

Guidance for Healthcare Practitioners

- To issue a medical marijuana authorization to your patient, health care practitioners:
  - Must have a Washington State-issued health profession license type defined under RCW 69.51A.010(5) – see Who can authorize?
  - Refer to the professional practice standards established by the regulating Boards and Commissions:
    - Medical Marijuana Authorization Guidelines
    - Medical Marijuana Authorization Guidelines (Washington Medical Commission)
  - Complete and sign the current Medical marijuana authorization form (DOH 630-123 November 2019) and print on authorization tamper-resistant paper.
- 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.

Special Considerations

- A qualifying patient is defined under per RCW 69.51A.010(19) as one who has been diagnosed by that health care practitioner as having a terminal or debilitating medical condition and is a resident of the state of Washington at the time of such diagnosis – see Qualifying Conditions.
- A DP must be twenty-one years of age 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.
  - A DP may only be designated to serve one patient at a time and vice versa; a patient may only have one designated provider at a time.
  - If the patient has a DP, issue two original authorizations printed, signed and dated on authorization tamper-resistant paper. The designated provider must have their own authorization even if they reside at the same address. This includes minor patients under the age of eighteen.
- For patient’s unable to physically sign the form to designate a care giver as required under RCW 69.51A.010(4):
  - A qualifying patient’s mark is acceptable as the signature on the authorization form when a patient is unable to apply a full handwritten signature.
  - A family member may assist a qualifying patient to apply a signature, initial, or make a mark when completing the attestation on the authorization form.
Form Instructions
The medical marijuana authorization (authorization) form (DOH 623-123 November 2019) is divided into three sections with each line item numbered for reference:

- Section I – Patient and Designated Provider (DP) Information
  - **Line items 1 and 2** - Use full legal name of the patient. 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.
  - **Line item 3** – Mark “Yes” if the adult patient has a DP who will be purchasing or growing marijuana for the patient. Always mark “Yes” for minor patients (under age 18). Mark “No” if patient does not have a DP and continue on to Section II.
  - **Line items 4 and 5** – enter the patient’s DP name and address. This includes the parent/or legal guardian who will be acting as DP for the minor patient.
  - **Line item 6** – A designated provider must be designated in writing by a qualifying patient to serve as the designated provider for that patient per RCW 69.51A.010. Line item 6 provides a method for adult patients (age 18 and older) to designate a person. Minor patients or their DP (parent/legal guardian) are not required to sign.

- Section II – Healthcare Practitioner Information
  - **Line items 7 and 8**:
    - Use the full name listed on the Washington State-issued healthcare practitioner license.
    - Address must be the business location from which the authorization was issued.
    - Enter the 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
  - **Line item 9** - mark the patient’s qualifying condition(s)
  - **Line item 10** – Indicate patient eligibility for a compassionate care renewal of his or her authorization and/or registration in the database and card per RCW 69.51A.030(2). Important to note regarding database registration renewals:
    - Patients are not required to have a designated provider, but will have to renew their own registration in-person if they do not.
    - A patient who was not previously registered will need to visit the store in-person for initial entry. Subsequent renewals may occur through their designated provider if eligible for compassionate care renewals.
  - **Line item 11** – An authorization allows a patient to grow up to four plants within their domicile; if registered in the database and has a card, the patient may grow up to six. A practitioner may recommend additional plants (no more than 15 plants) to meet the patient’s medical needs by marking “Yes” and indicating the number of plants on the form - RCW 69.51A.210
  - **Line item 12** - For an adult patient (age 18+) an authorization may be valid for up to one year after issuance; a minor patient (under age 18) may be valid up to six months after issuance.
  - **Line item 13** – The healthcare practitioner issuing the authorization must sign and date the form for it to be valid.
Information for Patients and Designated Providers

A qualifying patient (or their designated provider) may:

- With an authorization, a patient or their designated provider may grow up to four plants within their domicile.
- If registered into the Medical Marijuana Authorization Database (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 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.