INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS – RCW 69.51.030
Healthcare practitioners should refer to the Medical Marijuana Authorization Practice Guidelines for professional practice standards related to authorizing marijuana for medical purposes.

- A qualifying patient is a patient of a healthcare practitioner who has been diagnosed as having a qualifying condition, is a resident of the state of Washington at the time of diagnosis, has been advised by the practitioner of the risks and benefits of the medical use of marijuana, and has been issued an authorization form from a healthcare practitioner.
- All authorizations issued on or after July 1, 2018, must be completed on the new authorization form (DOH 630-123 July 2017), signed by the authorizing healthcare practitioner (practitioner) and printed on the new tamper-resistant paper containing the RCW logo as defined in RCW 69.51A.010 – see Medical Marijuana Authorization Form for details.
- When completing the authorization form, every field must be filled in unless described as optional. Use the full name of the patient or designated provider (DP) (no nicknames) and physical street address (no post office box).
- If the patient does not have a designated provider, mark N/A in each box of the “Designated Provider” section.
- For minor patient (under 18) authorizations, the DP (parent or legal guardian) must sign the “Patient Attestation” section on behalf of the minor by printing the minor patient’s name and the parent or legal guardian’s relationship to the patient on the signature line, and signing his or her own name next to it.
- Keep a copy of the authorization in the patient’s medical record and give the original form to the patient (and designated provider) for their records. Do not mail, email or fax a copy to the Department of Health.
- Remember, an authorization allows a patient to grow up to four plants; six plants if the patient becomes a cardholder. To recommend additional plants, enter the number of plants and sign “Additional Plants” section, otherwise, leave it blank.

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND DESIGNATED PROVIDERS – chapter 69.51A RCW
An authorized patient (and DP) 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.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA RECOGNITION CARD BENEFITS – RCW 69.51A.230
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. Minor patients (under 18) and their DP are required to join the database. Patients between the ages of 18 and 20 are not required to have a DP but must have a recognition card to purchase products from a medically endorsed store.

A recognition card holder may:

- Purchase products sales-tax free at a licensed marijuana store with a medical endorsement.
- Purchase up to three times the current limits at a licensed, marijuana store with a medical endorsement.
- Purchase immature plants, clones and seeds from a WSLCB-licensed marijuana producer.
- Purchase compliant high THC products at licensed marijuana store with a medical endorsement –
- Possess six plants and eight ounces of usable marijuana. A healthcare practitioner may authorize additional plants to a maximum of 15; an authorized patient may possess up to 16 ounces of usable marijuana produced from the plants.
- Participate in a medical marijuana cooperative regulated by the WSLCB.
- Have arrest protection, whereas an authorization alone provides only an affirmative defense to criminal prosecution for possession of marijuana, including up to four marijuana plants.

To receive a medical marijuana recognition card, call a nearby licensed, marijuana store with a medical endorsement and schedule an appointment with a certified medical marijuana consultant. Bring your authorization and state-issued identification with you to the appointment. The consultant will enter your information into the database, take your photo, and create a recognition card for you. Your original authorization form will be returned to you for safekeeping at home. The store is required by state law to collect a $1 fee at the time the card is created.

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