



Medical cannabis

laws and rules

The Cannabis Patient Protection Act was signed into law April 2015 and went into full effect on July 1, 2016.

This law aligns licensing and regulation of all cannabis producers, processors, retail stores and patient cooperatives under the oversight of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLC).

The Washington State Department of Health manages the medical cannabis database system and credentialing of medical cannabis consultants who work in medically endorsed cannabis stores.

- RCW 69.51A.290
- Chapter 246-72 WAC



Certified consultant requirements

To qualify for certification as a medical cannabis consultant the applicant must:

1. Be 21 years of age or older.
2. Pass the Department of Health-approved certified medical cannabis consultant training program.
3. Complete CPR training.
4. Apply for certification by completing and returning the certified medical cannabis consultant application form with the application fee.

Background check

To protect the public, the department considers criminal and civil history, and other factors when processing this certification.

A criminal conviction or other negative event may not automatically bar an applicant from obtaining a certification. Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Interested in becoming a consultant?

If you would like to become a certified medical cannabis consultant and work with patients in a licensed and medically endorsed cannabis store, see the Department of Health web site for more information.

Learn more...

Washington State Department of Health Medical Cannabis Program

www.doh.wa.gov/medicalcannabis

360-236-4819

medicalcannabis@doh.wa.gov

A patient's guide to the ...

Medical Cannabis Consultant

What is a medical cannabis consultant?

All licensed and medically endorsed cannabis retail stores are required to have a certified medical cannabis consultant on staff to work with patients:

What consultants know

The Washington State Department of Health oversees the required consultant training programs. Those who take a medical cannabis consultant training course will learn about:

- Washington state laws and rules.
- Qualifying conditions and the common symptoms of each.
- Short- and long-term positive and negative effects of cannabis use.
- Products that may benefit qualifying patients based on their conditions.
- The risks and benefits of various methods for using cannabis.
- Warning signs and the risks of overuse, abuse and addiction.
- Safe handling of cannabis products.
- Strategies to reduce access by minors.

Ethics and customer privacy and rights.

What consultants do

The certified consultant is not a medical provider and can do only the following for qualifying patients within a medically endorsed cannabis retail store:

- Enter patient and designated provider information from the authorization form into the database and create the medical cannabis recognition card.
- Assist the patient with selecting products.
- Describe risks and benefits of methods for using products.
- Give advice on ways to properly store products and keep them safe from children and pets.
- Show how to properly use products.
- Answer questions about the medical cannabis laws and rules.

Note: We recommend calling your medically-endorsed cannabis retail store and scheduling an appointment with a consultant before you go to the store.



Reporting misconduct

A certified medical cannabis consultant can work only in a licensed and medically endorsed cannabis store.

Consultants are not medical professionals and must follow strict guidelines when offering services.

If you think a certified medical cannabis consultant has overstepped their bounds, has provided services outside the cannabis store, or interacted with you inappropriately, you may file a complaint.

How to file a complaint

1. Get the complaint form from the Department of Health web site
2. Fill it out completely
3. E-mail the completed form to:
HSQAComplaintIntake@doh.wa.gov

You may also print out your completed form and mail it to:

Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance

Complaint Intake
P.O. Box 47857
Olympia, WA 98504-7857

For more information, please Contact us at
360-236-2620

Services not allowed by consultants:

- May not provide medical advise.
- May not diagnose any conditions.
- May not recommend changing current treatment(s) in place of cannabis.
- May not open and use actual products when demonstrating how to use.