

Caregiver Information for Initial Access Certification

What is Initial Access Certification (Initial Access)?

Commencing July 1, 2019, Initial Access allows patients to buy medical-use cannabis while their registration card is being processed and remains valid for 14 days. Initial Access is only for new registrations that are still being processed. There are no changes to the policy on printing temporary badges for completed applications.

Process for obtaining Initial Access:

Patients must visit their clinician* to get certified and receive all required documentation. A patient may then authorize a person as their caregiver by completing and signing the temporary caregiver authorization form generated by their clinician.

Caregivers and patients may use the patient portal to print out proof of Initial Access which will note “**TEMPORARY PATIENT REGISTRATION**”. Certification and a government-issued ID must be presented to obtain medical-use cannabis. The patient and caregiver’s information and the sale will be recorded.

Caregivers and patients must complete the full registration process to get a registration card. Initial Access Certification may expire before caregivers and patients can print their temporary badges. Caregivers and patients are encouraged to immediately submit their application to avoid gaps in registration.

(*Clinicians include physicians, certified nurse practitioners, and physician assistants that are registered in the medical program.)

What personal caregivers need to know about Initial Access:

Initial Access expires 14 days after it is issued or when the patient is approved for a registration card – whichever is first. Caregivers and patients are limited to one Initial Access Certification during any 365-day period unless otherwise approved.

Patients may receive a 14-day supply, determined to be 2.5 oz of cannabis. A clinician may set a different 14-day supply.

Caregivers and patients are still required to comply with regulations at 935 CMR 501.020 in order to obtain an annual caregiver registration card.



Questions?

If you have questions, please contact MedicalMarijuana@State.MA.US or (833) 869-6820.

