

Clinician Information for Initial Access Certification

What is Initial Access Certification (Initial Access)?

Commencing July 1, 2019, qualifying patients and personal caregivers may obtain Initial Access, a temporary patient registration, from a certifying clinician* to access a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC), commonly referred to as a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) and obtain medical-use cannabis and cannabis-infused products prior to being issued an annual registration card from the Cannabis Control Commission (Commission).

Under the Initial Access process, clinicians are now required to provide a qualifying patient documentation of Initial Access and an automatically generated personal caregiver authorization form after they submit the required information to the Commission. The Initial Access Certification document will note “**TEMPORARY PATIENT REGISTRATION**” and is included in the instruction packet that is generated by the system and may be printed after the certifying clinician submits the required information to the Commission. 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.

Patients may be dispensed only a 14-day supply of medical-use cannabis by the MTC with Initial Access. The Commission has determined that a 14-day supply is 2.5 ounces of cannabis, however, the certifying clinician may determine and certify that the qualifying patient requires another amount as a 14-day supply. Clinicians must document the amount and the rationale for that 14-day supply in the patient’s medical record and in their written certification.

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

Process for issuing Initial Access:

To issue Initial Access, certifying clinicians must collect and submit information required by the Commission through the Online System.

Once a certifying clinician has properly submitted the requisite information to the Commission, a “packet” of information will be automatically generated for them to print for the patient. This packet will include the initial access certification document, a caregiver authorization form, and instructions.

Questions?

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

