

Patient 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 a clinician* to get Initial Access. The clinician will print out proof for the patient. Patients may also use the patient portal to print out proof of Initial Access which will note **“TEMPORARY PATIENT REGISTRATION”**. Initial Access documentation and a government-issued ID must be presented to obtain medical-use cannabis. The patient’s information and the sale will be recorded. A patient may authorize a person as their temporary caregiver.

Patients must complete the full registration process to get a registration card. Initial Access may expire before patients can print a temporary badge. 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 patients 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. Patients are limited to one Initial Access 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.

Patients are required to comply with 935 CMR 501.015(3) to obtain a registration card.

Questions?

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

