

# Ohio Medical Marijuana

---

NEW PATIENT &  
RESPONSIBLE USE GUIDE

AKRON    COLUMBUS    PAINESVILLE    MAUMEE    SEVEN MILE

PH 614.612.1240 • [info@bloomohio.com](mailto:info@bloomohio.com) • [www.bloomohio.com](http://www.bloomohio.com)



# Table of Contents



BLOOM OHIO LOCATIONS	04
HOW TO OBTAIN MEDICAL MARIJUANA	06
THE RIGHT TO POSSESS	08
METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION	10
SAFE AND PROPER USAGE	12
NEGATIVE SIDE EFFECTS	14
RECOGNIZING DRUG ABUSE	16
TOLL FREE HELPLINE	18



- Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in Akron, Columbus, Maumee Painesville Township & Seven Mile
- Operates like a pharmacy
- Fully trained staff committed to assisting patients in finding suitable treatment plans.
- Complimentary, confidential patient consultations
- High-quality, lab-tested products
- Owned by healthcare professionals with over 125 years combined experience in the medical field.

## OHIO MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

House Bill 523, effective on September 8, 2016, legalizes medical marijuana in Ohio. The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program allows people with certain medical conditions, upon the recommendation of an Ohio-licensed physician certified by the State Medical Board, to purchase and use medical marijuana. Patients must establish a relationship with a physician certified by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy to recommend marijuana as treatment for patients. For registered patients, the physician issues the recommendation and submits the patient registration. The patient can then apply online for a medical marijuana card, and pay the associated fee. Possession of the card allows patients to purchase medical marijuana in Ohio. Medical marijuana is available under Ohio law, however, it is illegal under Federal law. Medical marijuana is not available to individuals under the age of 21.

# How to Obtain Medical Marijuana

OBTAINING MEDICAL MARIJUANA THROUGH OHIO'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA CONTROL PROGRAM (OMMCP) INVOLVES THREE BASIC STEPS:

01

## SEE A PHYSICIAN



*Visit a certified physician who can diagnose you with a qualifying medical condition, and recommend medical marijuana treatment. The physician will create your profile in the Patient & Caregiver Registry.*

An in-person visit with a certified physician is required at least once per year. Certified physicians have access to the Patient Registry and will submit their recommendations for a patient to receive medical marijuana directly to the Patient Registry. The physician will need the patient's valid Ohio driver's license, a valid Ohio identification card issued by the Ohio bureau of motor vehicles (BMV), or a valid United States passport.

A registered caregiver may possess and administer medical marijuana to patients with whom the caregiver's registration is associated. The certified physician will require similar identification from a caregiver to establish their profile in the Patient Registry. A certified physician can recommend up to a 90-day supply of medical marijuana with three refills (totaling up to 360-day supply if appropriate for the patient).

Physicians who wish to recommend medical marijuana in Ohio must have an active Certificate to Recommend (CTR) from the State Medical Board of Ohio.

Ohio law prohibits the Board of Pharmacy, as well as licensed dispensaries, from making personal identifying information public. Only physicians and those employed by dispensaries will be able to verify a patient or caregiver's registration.

02

## GET REGISTERED



*Confirm and complete your registration for the program through the OMMCP Patient & Caregiver Registry*

Once a recommending physician has entered a patient or caregiver into the registry, the patient/caregiver will receive an email prompting them to login to their profile in the Patient Registry. In the registry, complete your application and pay the fee. The annual cost of a medical marijuana registration can be found at [medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov](http://medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov). Patients who qualify for indigent or veteran status may be eligible for fee reductions.

A patient or caregiver registration will be valid from the date of issuance and expire one year later, on the last day of the month it was issued. If the patient is diagnosed as terminally ill, the patient's registration will expire after six months.

03

## FIND A DISPENSARY



*Purchase medical marijuana from an approved dispensary in Ohio.*

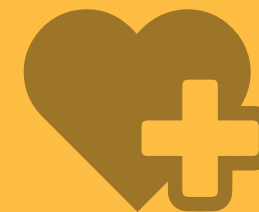
After receiving your Patient & Caregiver Registry card, you may purchase medical marijuana from an Ohio dispensary licensed by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Dispensary staff will assist you in selecting the appropriate type of product, for your condition.

Only patients with an active registry card, an active recommendation, and their associated government-issued ID can purchase medical marijuana.

## QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

Only patients with one of the following medical conditions may currently participate in Ohio's medical marijuana program:

AIDS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, Crohn's disease, epilepsy or another seizure disorder, fibromyalgia, glaucoma, hepatitis C, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, pain that is either chronic and severe or intractable, Parkinson's disease, positive status for HIV, post-traumatic stress disorder, sickle cell anemia, spinal cord disease or injury, Tourette's syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and ulcerative colitis.



# The Right to Possess

IT IS NOW LEGAL FOR OHIO RESIDENTS WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS TO USE NON-COMBUSTIBLE FORMS OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA WHEN RECOMMENDED BY AN ELIGIBLE PHYSICIAN

## PURCHASE

Registered Patients or designated Caregivers may only purchase medical marijuana with a valid and active recommendation issued by a certified physician.

## AGE LIMIT

No patient under eighteen years of age can purchase medical marijuana. A designated Caregiver may purchase on behalf of a minor.

## IDENTIFICATION

Patients and Caregivers must provide their registry identification card and photographic identification before entering the dispensary department.

## LIMITATIONS

No patient shall receive more than a ninety-day supply of medical marijuana.

## CAREGIVERS

A caregiver may obtain no more than a ninety-day supply of medical marijuana on behalf of a single patient.

## FEES

The annual fee for a patient or caregiver registration is posted at: [medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov](http://medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov) One application fee must be submitted with each application.



*Under current United States federal law medical marijuana continues to be illegal pursuant to the Controlled Substances Act and is listed as a Schedule I drug. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), "Schedule I drugs, substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse."*

## 90 DAY SUPPLY LIMITS

Terminal patients and their caregivers are allowed to purchase or possess a 90-day supply of medical marijuana at one time. The State of Ohio utilizes a tiered system to quantify the amount of THC a patient is permitted as follows:

**TIER 1** ..... Plant Material 0-23% THC: 8 ounces / 226.8g

**TIER II** ..... Plant Material 23.1-35% THC: 5.3 ounces / 150.3g

**OILS** ..... Oils for Vaporization: 53.1g total content THC

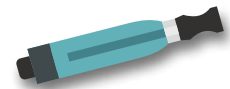
**TOPICALS** ..... Patches & Topicals for Transdermal Administration: 26.55g total content THC

**ORAL** ..... Edibles, Oils, and Tinctures for Oral Administration: 9.9g total content THC. Must be less than 70% THC.

# Methods of Administration

## APPROVED FORMS OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA CONSUMPTION IN OHIO

Marijuana is usually thought of as a drug that is smoked. **However, smoking marijuana is illegal in Ohio.** Smoking or Combustion, is illegal even for registered patients with qualifying medical conditions. There are three basic delivery methods for medical marijuana; inhalation, ingestion and transdermal. Each are appropriate for different treatments.



### OILS

Sticky, syrupy substance made when resins are removed from cannabis flowers through extraction. They can be ingested or vaporized.



### TINCTURES

These are alcohol-based cannabis extracts. Some have added flavors. This product has a low odor, and it is easy to dose.



### PLANT MATERIAL

Flower refers to the smokeable part of the cannabis plant that has gone through the cultivation and curing process. It may only be administered with the use of approved vaporization devices.



### CONCENTRATES

Concentrates are solid and semi-solid extracts containing concentrated THC and a multitude of other cannabinoids and terpenes.



### EDIBLES

Includes capsules, infused butter, honey and oils, and other solid prepared edibles. These are pre-dosed and ready to consume.



### TOPICALS

The plant and its extracts can be added to lotions, salves, balms, and patches to make pain-relieving topical products. Often essential oils and extracts such as cooling menthol or peppermint, pain relieving arnica, or warming cayenne are added.

## PRODUCT LIMITATIONS

Certified physicians are able to recommend marijuana to patients in the following forms:

- Oil, tincture, capsule, or edible form for oral administration;
- Metered oil or solid preparation for vaporization;
- Oil, tincture, capsule, or edible form for oral administration;
- Metered oil or solid preparation for vaporization;
- Patches for transdermal administration or lotions, creams, or ointments for topical administration;
- Plant material for administration with the use of approved vaporizing devices.

The following limitations apply to vaporizing devices used to administer medical marijuana:

- No vaporizing device, the design of which places medical marijuana in direct contact with the device's heating element, may be used to vaporize the resin contained within, or an extract of, medical marijuana;
- Vaporizing devices shall not be capable of being heated to temperatures at which medical marijuana plant material will burn.

## NOTICE

*Under Ohio law, possession of drug paraphernalia is a misdemeanor, irrespective of a registered patient's status. At this time, there are no protections in Ohio that would prevent a law enforcement from charging a registered patient with possession of drug paraphernalia. Although smoking medical marijuana is illegal, inhaling medical marijuana is permitted through the use of a vaporizing device. Additionally, there are other accessories that are used in the administration of medical marijuana. These are all considered paraphernalia. Patients should be advised that possession of any paraphernalia or other device used in the administration of medical marijuana is illegal. If a registered patient finds it necessary to travel with their medical marijuana paraphernalia, the patient should be encouraged to carry, along with their medical marijuana registry card, their paraphernalia in the original labeled container the accessory came in when it was purchased at the dispensary.*

# Safe & Proper Usage

APPROVED USAGE AND SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN OHIO

01

## INHALATION

### Takes Effect in 1-5 Minutes, Effects Last 1-4 Hours

Many patients choose to inhale marijuana via a vaporizer because this dosage method is discreet and convenient. However, respiratory tract irritation is a short-term side effect of inhalation. Habitual and heavy inhalation of marijuana may cause phlegm production, bronchitis and chronic coughing. Smoking via combustion of marijuana is prohibited under Ohio law.

02

## INGESTION

### Takes Effect in Varying Times, Effects Last 6-8 Hours

Medical Marijuana may be ingested as oils, edibles or tinctures. Since ingested medical marijuana is processed by the body's liver, patients may experience stronger and longer-lasting psychoactive effects, especially when using products high in THC. The most common ways to ingest marijuana are through:

- **Cannabis butter**, which is cannabinoid-infused butter;
- **Cannabis oil**, which is made in a similar manner to marijuana butter, but it is a blend of cooking oil and cannabinoid resins;
- **Cannabis edibles**, which includes mints, candies and other prepared foods.
- **Cannabis tinctures**, are concentrated marijuana liquids that take effect in 5-30 minutes with effects lasting 1-6 hours. They are often flavored and can be added to foods or drinks or taken directly;
- **Capsules** are also available, with effects that are very similar to those resulting from the preparations above.

04

## TOPICAL

### Takes Effect in Varying Times, Effects Last for Varying Times

The plant and its oil extracts can be added to lotions, salves and balms to make topical products. Topical medical marijuana does not create psychoactive effects in patients. Topical medical marijuana may be recommended by your physician to alleviate the symptoms associated with conditions such as:

- **Fibromyalgia**
- **Pain that is either chronic and severe or intractable**
- **Parkinson's disease**
- **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**

05

## LIMITATIONS ON EXTRACTIONS

The process of home extraction to make marijuana concentrates is difficult and dangerous. Most importantly, it is illegal in the State of Ohio.

State licensed processors spend immense amounts of resources to ensure their extraction process and equipment are compliant and safe. These safeguards are not available to the everyday patient. Home extraction involves the use of dangerous and explosive solvents such as butane, alcohol, Co2, propane, etc. Each of these solvents are dangerous in their own right. The use of unregulated home extraction devices/methods can lead to explosions and the inhalation of dangerous gases. Home extraction endangers not just the person participating but anyone else inside the residence and neighboring residences. Furthermore, the end product of home extraction is not lab tested for residual solvents meaning use of home extracted cannabis could lead to poisoning.

06

## ADDITIONAL INFO

- **Medical marijuana must be stored securely to prevent theft and unauthorized access.** Product must be stored in the dispensary container with original label.
- **Start slow and gradually increase dosage. Less may well be more when using medical marijuana.**
- **It is illegal in Ohio to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of medical marijuana.**
- **It is illegal in Ohio to possess a handgun if you have an active license for medical marijuana.**

# Negative Side Effects

TO REDUCE SIDE EFFECTS IN PATIENTS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE AS LITTLE AS IS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE MEDICINAL BENEFITS.

Medical marijuana may be recommended by a certified physician to treat qualifying medical conditions. Talk to your recommending physician regarding the possible side effects from medical marijuana while treating the symptoms of your qualifying condition. Anxiety attacks, convulsions and temporary psychosis are some reported complications, typically caused by ingesting too much edible medical marijuana or marijuana high in THC. These side effects and are more likely to occur in patients who have never used medical marijuana, or use it infrequently. Patients should consult with their physician to make adjustments to their treatment plan by regulating dosage, administration method, or type of medications to decrease or eliminate any potential negative side effects.

## The possible negative side effects of medical marijuana usage include:

- Decreased sperm count
- Drowsiness
- Eye redness
- Impaired psychomotor performance
- Hunger
- Short attention span
- Short-term temporary memory loss
- Thirst
- Uneasiness
- Euphoria
- Decreased REM sleep patterns

## PRECAUTIONS

### Long-term, heavy medical marijuana use may negatively impact health as follows:

Long-term medical marijuana use may impact reproductive hormones, possibly causing decreased sperm counts. There is evidence in animals that fetal exposure to medical marijuana may carry a higher risk of cognitive deficiencies, small birth weight and premature delivery. It is important for women who are breastfeeding, pregnant or may become pregnant to avoid using medical marijuana until scientific research can definitively determine whether its use in pregnancy also has negative effects in humans.

While medical marijuana has been shown to improve many mental conditions, **some patients may find that marijuana aggravates symptoms of their mental disorder.** Therefore, patients who have been diagnosed with a mental illness are encouraged to consult with their physicians before using medical marijuana, and regularly while using it.

**Patients diagnosed with hepatitis C should be judicious in their use of medical marijuana.**

**Medical marijuana patients should refrain from driving for a minimum of two hours after consumption,** and should carefully assess their ability to drive or carry out complex tasks after using medical marijuana, and especially ingested medical marijuana products. Keep in mind that medical marijuana can cause impairment of motor skills that may last for several hours, and that driving under the influence of medical marijuana, especially THC, is considered a crime in Ohio, and working while intoxicated by medical marijuana may cost a patient their job.

### Drug Interactions:

**The use of medical marijuana while taking prescription medications may intensify the effects of the medications.** Initial studies have found marijuana to interact with medications such as antihistamines, barbiturates, disulfiram, fluoxetine and theophylline, and may alter the metabolism of antiepileptic medications. Caution should be taken when mixing medical marijuana and alcohol due to the combination's ability to amplify the effects of both substances, known as a synergistic effect.

## TOLL-FREE HELPLINE

The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program Toll-Free Helpline responds to inquiries from patients, caregivers, and health professionals regarding adverse reactions to medical marijuana, and provides information about available services and additional assistance as needed. To contact the line, please dial:

**1-833-4OH-MMCP (1-833-464-6627)**



# Recognizing Drug Abuse

SUBSTANCE ABUSE REFERS TO THE HARMFUL OR HAZARDOUS USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS.

Psychoactive substance use can lead to dependence syndrome - a cluster of behavioral, cognitive, and physiological phenomena that develop after repeated substance use and that typically include a strong desire to take the drug, difficulties in controlling its use, persisting in its use despite harmful consequences, a higher priority given to drug use than to other activities and obligations, increased tolerance, and sometimes a physical withdrawal state.

## Drug Addiction

Addiction is a chronic disease characterized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or difficult to control, despite harmful consequences. The initial decision to take drugs is voluntary for most people, but repeated drug use may lead to brain changes that challenge an addicted person's self-control and interfere with their ability to resist intense urges to take drugs. These brain changes can be persistent, which is why drug addiction is considered a "relapsing" disease—people in recovery from drug use disorders are at increased risk for returning to drug use even after years of not taking the drug.

## Signs of Substance Abuse

Recognizing signs and symptoms of substance abuse, including behavioral changes that may be indicative of misuse or abuse including:

- Distorted perceptions • Impaired coordination • Difficulty in thinking and problem solving
- Ongoing problems with learning and memory • Feeling a need to use the drug to deal with a problem.

## Other signs of substance misuse or abuse that might present include:

- Persistent cough • Anxiety, paranoia, or fear • Poor memory • Impaired coordination
- Slow reaction time • Loss of control • Addiction

Additionally, when long-term marijuana abusers try to stop using the drug, they often suffer with many unpleasant symptoms, which make it difficult to quit. The desire to stop these withdrawal symptoms leads many people back into ongoing marijuana use:

- Irritability • Sleeplessness • Decreased appetite, which can trigger disordered eating
- Anxiety • Drug craving

## Addiction Symptoms Checklist:

Talk to a health care provider if you or a loved one experience two or more of these symptoms in the last year:

- Often taking more of the substance for a longer period than intended
- Ongoing desire or unsuccessful efforts to reduce use
- Great deal of time spent to obtain, use or recover from the substance
- Craving the substance
- Failing to fulfill obligations at work, home or school as a result of continued use
- Continued use despite ongoing social or relationship problems caused or worsened by use
- Giving up or reducing social, occupational or recreational activities because of use
- Repeated use in physically dangerous situations (like drinking or using other drugs while driving, or smoking in bed)
- Continued use despite ongoing physical or mental health problems caused or worsened by use
- Developing tolerance (feeling less effect from the substance with continued use)
- Experiencing withdrawal symptoms after reducing use (symptoms vary, withdrawal does not happen with all substances; examples include inhalants and hallucinogens)

## It is recommended that patients seek treatment for their addiction if:

- They think the drug use is out of control or is causing problems
- Drug use has led to unsafe behavior
- They experience withdrawal symptoms

Typically, withdrawal symptoms peak after about 3 or 4 days with all symptoms ceasing after one to two weeks of abstinence. Other residual effects may be psychological in scope and might best be overcome by counseling and guidance.

**PATIENTS SUSPECTED OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE WILL BE REFERRED TO AN ADDICTION SPECIALIST OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER.**

**If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, call 877-275-6364 for information and a referral.**

## REFUSING MEDICAL MARIJUANA

*Bloom Medicinals' Standard Operating Procedures provide guidelines for dispensary employees who may refuse to provide medical marijuana to patients who appear intoxicated. Bloom Medicinals and its dispensary employees reserve the right to decline dispensing of medical marijuana to a medical marijuana cardholder if they appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or appear to be abusing medical marijuana. Signage will be placed in the Public Vestibule/ Waiting Room and Dispensary Department stating, "Medical marijuana will not be dispensed to any individual who appears to be impaired or abusing medical marijuana."*

## TOLL-FREE HELPLINE

The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program Toll-Free Helpline responds to inquiries from patients, caregivers, and health professionals regarding adverse reactions to medical marijuana, and provides information about available services and additional assistance as needed.

To contact the line, please dial:

**1-833-4OH-MMCP**  
**(1-833-464-6627)**

Contact your recommending physician if you experience side effects or contraindications.

## ABUSE PREVENTION

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, call

**877-275-6364**

for information and a referral.

The misuse or abuse of medications or other drugs has serious consequences.

There are resources available to help.

[www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/abuse-prevention](http://www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/abuse-prevention)



## **Akron**

---

737 E. North Street  
Akron, OH 44305  
12pm-7pm Mon, Wed-Sat,  
Closed Sun & Tue

## **Columbus**

---

1361 Georgesville Road  
Columbus, OH 43228  
9am-7pm Mon-Th,  
9am-8pm Fri-Sat, 9am-5pm Sun

## **Painesville Township**

---

382 Blackbrook Road  
Painesville, OH 44077  
12-7pm Mon-Sat,  
Closed Sun

## **Maumee**

---

1238 Conant Street  
Maumee, OH 43537  
12-7pm Mon-Sat,  
10am-4pm Sun

## **Seven Mile**

---

403 South Main Street  
Seven Mile, OH 45011  
12:00-7:00pm Mon, Wed-Sat,  
Closed Tue & Sun

\*Hours subject to change, please  
call for current information.  
Current hours also available  
at [www.bloomohio.com](http://www.bloomohio.com)

