

From: Virginia Board Pharmacy
Date: July 7, 2023
Subject: Medical Cannabis: Updated Information



Medical Cannabis Program: Additional Information

This communication contains additional information for practitioners of medical cannabis as referenced in the June 28th communication. Please review this information and, where appropriate, share it with patients that you provide a written certification for the use of medical cannabis products.

Practitioners Issuing Written Certifications for Medical Cannabis

While practitioners are no longer required to register with the Board as of July 1, 2023 prior to issuing a written certification for medical cannabis, practitioners are reminded of the following Code of Virginia requirement:

§54.1-3408.3 Certification for use of cannabis products for treatment.

E. A practitioner who issues a written certification to a patient pursuant to this section (i) shall hold sufficient education and training to exercise appropriate professional judgment in the certification of patients.

While the Board does not endorse or approve educational training programs on medical cannabis, practitioners are strongly encouraged to obtain the necessary knowledge to treat patients safely and effectively with this drug. [Guidance Document 110-32](#) highlights potential drug interactions with medical cannabis.

New Medical Cannabis Patient Registration System

As shared previously, the Board is implementing a new process for issuing patient written certifications that will require practitioners to complete the written certification in a new, electronic format. It is anticipated the system will be fully accessible within the next few weeks. Once live, practitioners should no longer issue written certifications on the paper form. As full utilization of this system goes live, practitioners will be provided with additional information regarding the system.

System highlights:

- Immediate, ongoing access to the most current written certification document. Updates to the written certification will be made within the system, ensuring that practitioners are utilizing the most up to date certification.
- Upon completion of the written certification, the patient will receive an email notification with directions on how to access a digital copy of both the written certification and a patient medical cannabis “card”.
- As a reminder, a medical cannabis patient is no longer required to register with the Board of Pharmacy to access a medical cannabis dispensary. However, if the patient chooses to register with the Board, they will have the option to do so through the system’s new patient portal. The fee for this registration will continue to be \$50. Upon successful registration, the patient will be issued a digital registered medical cannabis patient “card”.
- The patient, whether registered with the Board or not, will be able to access a medical cannabis dispensary in Virginia with their digital card and a government issued identification. The dispensary will have the ability to scan the barcode printed on the digital card and access the patient’s written certification.
- The Board will no longer issue a physical card for those patients that choose to register with the Board.
- To access the system, practitioners must complete a brief enrollment process. Practitioners may begin enrolling in the system now and are required to enroll even if you have previously registered with the Board. You will not be able to access the system until you enroll. The Board encourages you to enroll as soon as possible so that you will be able to immediately access the digital written certification in the coming weeks. Practitioners may enroll by clicking here: <https://patients.va.biotr.ac/>. Directions to complete the enrollment are attached to this email.

Registration Requirements for Agents

Effective July 1, 2023, HB2368 removes the requirement for a registered agent to register with the Board of Pharmacy if their name appears on the written certification for medical cannabis that is provided to the patient. If the agent’s name is not on the written certification, the individual intending to act as the patient’s agent, must register with the Board of Pharmacy. The practitioner may add the agent’s name to the written certification, in the appropriately designated section, on the basis of medical need and at the discretion of the practitioner and the request of the patient.

As a reminder, a patient, or parent/legal guardian of a patient, may chose an individual to act as their agent to obtain medical cannabis products on the patient’s behalf. Additionally, an agent, registered with the Board of Pharmacy or notated on the written certification, may only act in this capacity for two patients.

PMP Reporting Requirements for Cannabis Products

Effective July 1, 2023, [HB2368](#) requires that cannabis products be reported to the PMP by the primary cannabinoid of the product. Additionally, it requires product labels for all cannabis products and botanical cannabis to be complete, accurate, easily discernable, and uniform among different products and brands. Pharmaceutical processors shall affix to all cannabis products and botanical cannabis a label, which shall also be accessible

on the pharmaceutical processor's website, that includes: the product name; all active and inactive ingredients, including cannabinoids, terpenes, additives, preservatives, flavorings, sweeteners, and carrier oils; the total percentage and milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol included in the product and the number of milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol in each serving; the amount of product that constitutes a single serving and the amount recommended for use by the practitioner or dispensing pharmacist; information regarding the product's purpose and detailed usage directions; child and safety warnings in a conspicuous font; and such other information required by the Board.

Questions may be directed to cbd@dhp.virginia.gov or (804) 367-4456.