

Medical Marijuana Program Implementation Status Update

Patient and Designated Caregiver Applications:

Applications for patients and designated caregivers are open. There is no closing date for patient or designated caregiver applications, so applicants can apply any time. Instructions, video tutorials and an FAQ document pertaining to patient applications can be found on the Division website or by clicking [here](#).

ID Cards Issued: The Division has issued ID cards to patients and designated caregivers whose applications were approved. For details regarding the application approval process, click [here](#). ID cards are valid for one year unless otherwise indicated by the patient's health care provider on the written certification.

Having a valid ID card **does not** make it legal to possess marijuana in any capacity other than through the North Dakota Medical Marijuana Program. Products are not yet available through the program.

Dispensary Update:

Dispensaries that have already been selected (Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks and Williston regions) continue to work towards their registration certificate through the Department of Health. It is anticipated that product will be available in February.

Applications for the remaining four dispensary regions (Devils Lake, Dickinson, Jamestown and Minot) will open by the end of January with selections being made sometime in late March or early April.

Health Care Providers:

The Division is often asked if they can provide a name or list of health care providers who are willing to sign a written certification. According to state law, information contained in a patient application, including the health care provider's name, is confidential and cannot be released.

Division staff continue to reach out to the health care community to provide valuable information regarding the Medical Marijuana Program. The Division encourages any health care facility or individual health care provider to call or email with questions regarding the program or to schedule a presentation. Division staff can be reached via phone at 701.328.1311 or by emailing medmarijuana@nd.gov.

Legislative Session:

This has been a very active legislative session for the Medical Marijuana Program. The Division has been tracking and [providing testimony](#) on numerous bills pertaining to the program. Members of the public can track bills using this [link](#).

Question: Once I submit my application, how long does the approval process take?

Answer: The time it takes to review applications is dependent on a couple of different things. First, the health care provider must complete the written certification. The application will remain in the submitted/pending third party approval folder until the written certification is completed. Payment must also be received prior to the application moving ahead in the review process. Designated caregivers must pass a criminal history record check prior to their application moving forward.

Once all information is submitted and the application is deemed "complete", the Division will conduct a review and validate that the information submitted is correct. This may include contacting the patient's health care provider or requesting medical records. The Division asks that you allow for 2-4 weeks for application review, although a decision on a 'complete' application can be made in a shorter time frame.

To review what the different statuses of an application mean, click [here](#).