

ACCM Next Frontier Medical Cannabis Standards Platform Framework

A National Standard for Patient-First Medical Cannabis Access, Transactions, and Accountability

This is a forward thinking document. The current ACCM platform and standards, provide connectivity and access to all state legal programming, and are built to adapt as the federal rules and regulations evolve.

1. Patient Eligibility & Medical Certification Standard

Creates a uniform electronic process for confirming that a patient is eligible for medical cannabis under state law, physician recommendation, qualifying condition, certification status, and renewal timeline.

Core data elements:

- Patient identity
- State medical cannabis ID or registry confirmation
- Certifying practitioner
- Qualifying condition category
- Certification date and expiration
- Authorized product categories, if applicable
- Purchase limits or dosing guidance where permitted

2. Medical Cannabis Recommendation Standard

Establishes a structured format for physician or qualified practitioner recommendations, similar in spirit to e-prescribing but reflecting that cannabis is often recommended rather than prescribed.

Supported transactions:

- New recommendation
- Renewal
- Modification
- Cancellation
- Clinical note attachment
- Product-form guidance
- Contraindication alerts
- Care-team communication

3. Dispensary / Pharmacy Access Standard

Creates a uniform operational standard for dispensaries, pharmacies, and hybrid access points serving medically eligible patients.

Required capabilities:

- Patient verification
- Practitioner recommendation lookup
- Product consultation documentation
- Purchase-limit validation and/or reimbursement verification
- Adverse-event reporting pathway – as industry develops
- Patient education delivery
- Referral back to provider when needed
- Privacy and consent controls

4. Product Identity & Formulary Standard

Creates a standardized product data file so payers, TPAs, dispensaries, physicians, and patient platforms can understand what products are available, covered, restricted, or clinically preferred.

Core product fields:

- Product name
- Manufacturer / cultivator / processor
- Batch and lot number
- Product form: flower, tincture, capsule, topical, edible, inhalation, concentrate, etc.
- THC, CBD, minor cannabinoid profile
- Terpene profile where available
- Route of administration
- Serving size / dose unit
- Testing certificate
- Recall status
- Medical-use category

5. Real-Time Benefit & Patient Cost Standard

Modeled after real-time prescription benefit tools, this standard would allow patients, providers, dispensaries, and plans to know the patient's available benefit before purchase.

Supported responses:

- Covered / not covered – as base eligibility to start
- Patient allowance balance – for patients
- Eligible product category
- Patient responsibility
- Alternative eligible products
- Required authorization
- Documentation required
- Plan limitations

6. Medical Cannabis Claim / Reimbursement Standard

Creates a structured transaction for wellness plans, association benefits, employer programs, TPAs, PBMs, and future insurance models to process medical cannabis-related benefits.

Transaction types:

- Eligibility inquiry
- Benefit confirmation
- Claim/reimbursement submission
- Reversal as market evolves
- Adjustment as market evolves
- Coordination of benefits
- Patient reimbursement
- Dispensary-direct reimbursement
- TPA/PBM settlement file

7. Prior Authorization / Medical Necessity Standard

Provides a standard pathway for programs that require review before approving coverage, reimbursement, or benefit use.

Clinical review fields:

- State qualifying condition
- Approved therapies
- Practitioner recommendation
- Product category requested
- Expected therapeutic purpose
- Duration of approval following state rules
- Renewal criteria
- Denial reason codes as market evolves

8. Seed-to-Sale Integration Standard

Requires ACCM-aligned systems to connect patient access and reimbursement activity with state-required traceability systems where legally available. This should not replace state tracking systems such as Metrc or BioTrack; it should complement them. Metrc describes its platform as seed-to-sale traceability using RFID and software for end-to-end supply-chain visibility.

Standard should support:

- Batch / lot verification
- Recall lookup
- Certificate of analysis validation
- Inventory confirmation
- Sale confirmation
- State compliance reporting
- Product safety holds

9. Laboratory Testing & Product Safety Standard

Aligns ACCM-approved products with recognized testing and safety expectations. ASTM D37 is already focused on cannabis quality, safety, testing, training, and certification. ACCM will also include the newly developed certifications as they come on line late 2026

Minimum safety domains:

- Potency
- Pesticides
- Heavy metals
- Residual solvents
- Microbials
- Mycotoxins
- Foreign material
- Stability / expiration
- Packaging and labeling accuracy

10. Patient Education & Informed Choice Standard

Requires consistent patient-facing education before benefit use or product dispensing.

Required education topics:

- Product type and route of administration
- Onset and duration
- Dosing caution – as market evolves
- Impairment warning – as market evolves
- Drug interaction risk -
- Storage and child safety– as market evolves
- State law limitations

11. Privacy, Consent & Data Security Standard

Creates HIPAA-aligned expectations even where medical cannabis entities may not traditionally operate as covered entities.

Core principles:

- Patient consent before data sharing
- Minimum necessary data exchange
- Secure electronic transmission
- Audit trails
- Role-based access
- No unauthorized marketing use
- Patient right to access transaction history

12. Provider, Dispensary & Platform Certification Standard

Creates an ACCM certification pathway for organizations participating in the medical cannabis care and transaction ecosystem.

Certification categories:

- ACCM Approved Dispensary
- ACCM Approved Pharmacy Partner
- ACCM Certified Practitioner Network
- ACCM Certified Benefit Administrator
- ACCM Certified Technology Platform
- ACCM Certified Product / Manufacturer Participant

Recommended ACCM Transaction Types

1. Eligibility Request / Response
2. Patient Certification Request / Response
3. Medical Cannabis Recommendation Transaction
4. Product Formulary File
5. Real-Time Benefit Inquiry
6. Prior Authorization Request / Decision
7. Claim Submission / Reversal / Adjustment
8. Patient Reimbursement File
9. Dispensary Settlement File
10. Adverse Event Report
11. Recall / Product Safety Alert
12. State Compliance Confirmation

ACCM Standard Purpose Statement

The ACCM Medical Cannabis Standards are designed to create a trusted national framework for medical cannabis access, benefit administration, product safety, and patient-first care. These standards help connect physicians, patients, dispensaries, pharmacies, benefit administrators, insurers, TPAs, PBMs, employers, associations, and regulators through a common language for eligibility, recommendations, product data, reimbursement, compliance, and outcomes. Our platform provides appropriate communication between all stakeholders.

Positioning Statement

ACCM does not attempt to replace existing pharmacy, payer, cannabis, or state compliance systems. Instead, ACCM serves as the bridge between them — creating the medical cannabis transaction and care standards needed for the next stage of the industry.

For more information:

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