

## **Step-by-Step: How to Register with the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program**

- 1. Visit the OMMCP'S website** at <https://www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/> to learn the basics. You must be an Ohio resident, age 18 or older and diagnosed with at least one qualifying medical condition. One of the following is required as ID: valid Ohio driver's license, Ohio BMV-issued ID card or U.S. passport.
- 2. Determine your diagnosis** and whether it's among 22 debilitating medical conditions:  

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); Alzheimer's Disease; Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); Cachexia (wasting syndrome); Cancer; Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE); Crohn's disease; Epilepsy or another seizure disorder; Fibromyalgia; Glaucoma; Hepatitis C; Inflammatory bowel disease; Multiple sclerosis; Pain that is chronic, severe, or intractable; Parkinson's disease; Positive status for HIV; Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); Sickle cell anemia; Spinal cord disease or injury; Tourette's syndrome; Traumatic brain injury (TBI); Ulcerative colitis.

**Tip!** The most common debilitating medical conditions for which cannabis is recommended in Ohio can be found [here](#), p. 4.
- 3. Assemble your documentation.** Collect, make copies and organize the medical records that document your qualifying medical condition. You may need to provide them to a recommending physician.  

**Tip!** Documentation may consist of medical bills, statements and physician orders. Some patients organize these items into a binder.
- 4. Determine if you qualify for special status** as a veteran, indigent, or terminal with regard your condition, and if you need a caregiver to make medical marijuana purchases for you. Each status has special requirements.
- 5. Secure an email address and secure a debit/credit card.** The former enables receipt of information necessary to register with the program, the latter enables payment for an OMMCP registration.
- 6. Locate and visit a physician who holds a Certificate to Recommend (CTR)** medical marijuana from the Ohio medical board. Schedule a visit with this doctor and provide him/her with your medical records. Mention the aforementioned special statuses if they apply to you. The visit can be either in person or online (over Zoom or similar software). Physician fees vary with the office. Recommendations must be renewed annually.  

**Tip!** Some recommending physicians can be located on this interactive map [here](#). You can also ask your primary care physician or doctor with a medical group to whom they refer patients for medical marijuana recommendations.
- 7. Access, activate and print your card** by signing into the OHMM Registry [here](#). This card permits you to purchase medical marijuana products. After your recommending physician adds your information to the system, you will receive an email containing a link at which you input your email address and a password to enter. Once in the system, you will pay a \$50 registration fee with your credit or debit card. The fee can be reduced by as much as 50% for special statuses. You'll see an image of your card that you can download as a PDF file or PNG image. The card displays your name, birthday, issue and expiration dates and a 20-digit personal identity code next to a QR code. You will present your OMMCP card each time you purchase from dispensaries.
- 8. Visit a dispensary.** With your active medical marijuana card and valid ID, you are now ready to visit dispensaries. These are retail businesses that sell medical cannabis in Ohio. Dispensaries are highly secure places that follow strict rules. Depending on the number of patients, you may have to wait in line outside or in your car before entering. Once inside, you will present your ID and card to a receptionist and will then wait until called into a separate room where attendants will assist you and cashiers will process your purchases once you again present your identification. While some dispensaries now have limited capabilities to accept credit/debit cards, medical marijuana purchases are still made as cash only.

**Source:** Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program (OMMCP)  
<https://www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/Documents/PatientsCaregivers/Ohio%20Medical%20Marijuana%20Control%20Program%20-%20Patient%20and%20Caregiver%20Quick%20Reference%20Guide.pdf>

*Step-by-Step courtesy of Mary Jane's Guide, by Mary Jane Borden – March 2021*