



Accessing Cannabis for Medical Purposes

OPTIONS TO ACCESS CANNABIS

The options for patients or their designate to access cannabis include:

- By registering and purchasing with a **licensed producer** (with a Medical Document)
- Through a **licensed** retail outlet or online store
- Through a **pharmacy** with a prescription (nabilone and nabiximols)
- By **producing their own** or designating someone to produce for them
- Through an unregulated, unlicensed retailer or dealer (**not recommended**)

LICENSED PRODUCER/SELLER

Benefits of purchasing cannabis from a licensed producer or seller include:

- Access to quality-controlled cannabis
- Availability and delivery in all provinces and territories
- Potential access to specialized medical cannabis products not available through the non-medical cannabis market

THE MEDICAL DOCUMENT

Health Canada's Medical Document authorizes the use of cannabis for medical purposes and is necessary when an older adult patient:

- Registers and purchases cannabis from a licensed producer
- Produces their own medical cannabis
- Designates someone to produce medical cannabis for them

Completing a Medical Document may:

- Reduce stigma associated with cannabis use
- Be required by some employers or landlords
- Be used to claim health insurance and tax benefits
- Allow for compassionate pricing
- Offer access to a wider range of products
- Permit cannabis use in public spaces (where authorized)

The medical document can be accessed through Health Canada's website: <https://bit.ly/HealthCanada-MedicalDocument>

What Do You Need to Know About the Medical Document?



A physician or nurse practitioner completes a Medical Document. Without a Medical Document, patients cannot purchase medical cannabis through a licensed producer's website.

The patient chooses which licensed producer they would like to register with and sends them the completed Medical Document. Choice of a licensed producer is typically based on the availability of the cannabis product or patient preference.

Once registration is approved, a registration document will be issued by the licensed producer. Patients should keep this document on their person if travelling or in public in case it is requested by law enforcement.

The licensed producer directly couriers the cannabis to the patient's home.

A list of licensed producers can be found at <https://bit.ly/HealthCanada-LicensedProducers>