

If you're considering medical cannabis as a treatment option for yourself or for a loved one, you probably have more questions than answers. The sheer volume of information available about cannabis can feel overwhelming.

This resource document is the third of four documents. It explains the process to become a registered medical cannabis patient. If you have questions that are not answered here, have a look at the other three resource documents.

It is important to speak with your physician about medical cannabis therapy. We hope that these resource documents will help provide you some valuable information to better prepare yourself for that discussion.

### **Accessing medical cannabis**

In April 2014, Health Canada changed the process for patients to acquire medical cannabis in Canada. In most instances the process has become much more streamlined and consistent.

### **Who can prescribe?**

Under Health Canada's *Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR)*, which are the rules governing the medical cannabis industry in Canada, only an authorized healthcare practitioner can prescribe cannabis to patients.

Physicians are recognized as authorized healthcare practitioners in every Canadian province and territory, as long as they are in good standing with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. This includes your general practitioner or family doctor, as well as specialists including oncologists and rheumatologists.

Nurse practitioners are technically allowed to prescribe medical cannabis, but currently no provincial nurse practitioner college or association has allowed their members to do so. This may change over the months and years to come.

### **Questions to ask your doctor**

Do as much research as you can on medical cannabis as a treatment for your particular condition before you book an appointment with your doctor. If you can find evidence that medical cannabis has helped other people with your condition, print out the study or article and bring it with you. A scholarly journal or academic study will be your best evidence, but less formal sources like patient testimonials or blog posts can also be helpful.



Clearly identify the symptoms you feel can be better managed with medical cannabis. Make a list of the medicines and therapies you have already tried and mark which have, and which have not, worked.

Medical cannabis is often prescribed when conventional medicine just isn't enough. Here are some questions that you can ask your doctor during your visit:

- Given my condition, could medical cannabis be a valid treatment for me?
- Is medical cannabis safe for me to use?
- Will taking medical cannabis affect my other medications?
- What are the side effects?

If your doctor is not comfortable prescribing medical cannabis, ask if he or she would be willing to refer you to a specialist.

### **Application process**

There are three easy steps to complete your registration with a Licensed Producer. (LP) If you have any questions during your application it is recommended that you contact the LP directly.

Once your doctor agrees that medical cannabis could be a valuable treatment option to try, there are two important forms that need to be filled out – one is filled out by the patient and includes all of your information, and the second is filled out by the doctor and is considered 'the prescription'.

### **Patient application form**

Application forms, which can be both filled out on your computer and then printed or filled in by hand, are available from LP's on their websites.

There may be different forms to choose from based on where you live and where you will receive your medical cannabis. You only need to fill out the form that relates to your current living situation.

### **Physician Medical Document**

The Medical Document is filled in by your doctor and specifies which products you may use, as well as the dosage. This document is similar to a 'prescription' for a traditional medication that you would take to a pharmacy to fill.

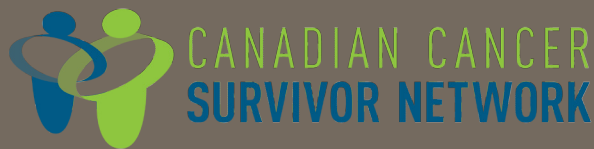
It is recommended that you print out a copy of the medical document to bring with you to an appointment with your physician. You can also access the physician medical document on LP websites.


### **Completing your registration**

The final step in the registration process is sending the two completed forms to your chosen LP.

Your doctor can fax a copy of the medical document and your application form directly from their office, or you can send both forms by mail or courier. Ask your physician to send in your application with the medical document as this will save time.

For more information, please contact  
Canadian Cancer Survivor Network  
(613) 898-1871  
or email us at [info@survivornet.ca](mailto:info@survivornet.ca)  
[www.survivornet.ca](http://www.survivornet.ca)



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