

NYS Medical Marijuana Program – Fast Facts

The most common severe debilitating or life-threatening conditions among medical marijuana patients are chronic pain (53.13%), neuropathies (14.59%), and cancer (12.18%).*

Patients aged 51-60 years made up the greatest percentage of certifications (23.06%), followed by patients aged 61-70 (19.21%).*

About 5% of patients are designated as terminally ill.*

Nearly 12,000 caregivers are registered for the program.*

Practitioners who can certify patients with a medical marijuana recommendation are:

- Physicians
- Nurse practitioners
- Physician assistants (whose supervising physician is registered with the NYS Department of Health)

Temporary ID cards are issued to patients and caregivers with an approved registration, so they can get medical marijuana the same day as they register. Patients and caregivers receive photo ID cards within 7-10 business days of registration.

There are 10 Registered Organizations (ROs) approved to do business in New York State. Each can have 4 dispensing locations where patients can buy medical marijuana products. To find a location, visit www.health.ny.gov/mmp and click “Registered Organizations.”

Natural compounds found in the marijuana plant are:

- **Cannabidiol (CBD)** is a marijuana compound that has medical benefits but is not psychoactive. CBD is one of approximately 113 cannabinoids identified in cannabis.
- **Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)** is the primary psychoactive component in marijuana which binds to the cannabinoid receptors primarily in the brain.
- **Terpenes** are a diverse class of hydrocarbons that are responsible for the aroma of the marijuana plant.

Marijuana remains classified as a Schedule I drug and is not recognized by the Federal Government for medical use.

**From [Medical Use of Marijuana Under the Compassionate Care Act Two-Year Report 2016-2018](#).*