



Frequently Asked Questions on Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations

1. Is cannabis legal in Canada?

Cannabis is legal starting October 17, 2018.

The use of medical cannabis in Canada was [legalized in 2001](#). The federal government does not endorse the use of cannabis products, but the Canadian courts have determined that individuals who have demonstrated a medical need for cannabis have a right to reasonable access to a legal source of cannabis. Cannabis (including dried or fresh marijuana and cannabis oil) is not an approved drug or medicine in Canada. The [federal legislation](#) to legalize cannabis, through Bill C-45, the [Cannabis Act](#) for recreational use was passed in November 2017 and goes into effect on October 17, 2018.

For additional information on cannabis in Canada visit the [Government of Canada's website by clicking here](#).

2. What is the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR)?

The [Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations \(ACMPR\)](#) replaced the former Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR) in 2016. The MMPR was updated to the ACMPR in 2016 by the Supreme Court of Canada based on the decision in *Allard v. Canada*. The decision found that requiring individuals to get their marijuana only from licensed producers violated liberty and security rights protected by Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Court found that individuals who require marijuana for medical purposes did not have "reasonable access".

3. What are the changes in the new ACMPR?

- Under the ACMPR, people with a medical need, and authorization from their healthcare practitioner, are now able to access cannabis in three ways:
 - access quality-controlled cannabis by registering with licensed producers (as with the MMPR);
 - register with Health Canada to produce a limited amount for their own medical purposes; or
 - designate someone else to produce it for them.
- Possession limit is the lesser of a 30-day supply or 150 grams of dried marijuana or the equivalent amount if in another form (fresh marijuana or other cannabis product).
- Health Canada will continue to accept and process applications of licensed producers that were submitted under the former MMPR.
- All licenses and security clearances granted under the MMPR will continue under the ACMPR (licensed producers can continue to register and supply clients with cannabis for medical purposes).
- New applicants can continue to apply for licenses to produce under the ACMPR.

- Licensed producers can produce and sell starting materials (i.e. marijuana seeds or plants) to people who are registered with Health Canada to produce cannabis for their own medical purposes or to have it produced by a designated person.
- Licensed producers can sell an interim supply of fresh or dried marijuana or cannabis oil to registered persons while they wait for their plants to grow.
- A Health Canada registered person who has a designated producer can also participate in all the activities that the designated person is authorized to conduct.
- A Health Canada registered person, as well as a designated person can alter dried marijuana they harvest into other products (e.g. oils).
- There are [new](#) labelling requirements for licensed producers.
- There are no changes to the role of the Health Care practitioner under the new regulations.
- It is illegal for any registered person to sell, provide or give cannabis to another person.
- It is illegal for a designated person to sell, provide or give cannabis to any person other than the person they are authorized to produce cannabis for.
- It is illegal for a designated person to produce cannabis for more than two people registered with Health Canada, including him/herself, for whom he/she is authorized to produce in a registration.
- Registered and designated persons may not produce cannabis exceeding the maximum limits outlined in their registration certificate.

For further details:

- Health Canada: [March 28, 2014 – Medical Marijuana Access Regulations update](#)
- Health Canada: [Medical Use of Marijuana – Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Health Canada: [Cannabis Regulations for Licensed Producers](#)

4. I would like to produce my own cannabis for medical purposes, how do I do this under the new regulations?

To produce a limited amount of cannabis for personal medical purposes, individuals must submit an [application](#) to register with Health Canada, which includes an original medical document from the healthcare practitioner along with information about where cannabis will be produced and stored. Once an individual is registered, they will receive a certificate from Health Canada, which will include proof of legal authorization to possess and produce cannabis as well as the location and maximum limits of the production and storage activities, and the individual's possession limit. Registrants can then register with one of the Health Canada licensed producers and obtain starting materials (i.e. marijuana seeds or plants) for production and purchase an interim supply of cannabis for medical purposes until their cannabis production is established.

5. I would like to designate someone else to produce cannabis for me, how do I do this under the new regulations?

If you choose to designate someone else to produce cannabis for you, you must submit an [application](#) to register with Health Canada (this is the same process as producing it for yourself except you must include information from the designated person), along with an original medical document from the healthcare practitioner and a declaration by the designated person. The designated person must include a document issued by a Canadian police force proving the individual has not been convicted or received a sentence for a drug

offence within the 10 previous years. The registered person will receive a certificate from Health Canada and the designated person will receive a document from Health Canada containing information about permitted activities. Both the certificate and the document can be used by the person who is registered with Health Canada, or their designate to prove that they have legal authority to possess and produce cannabis. Registrants can then register with one of the Health Canada licensed producers and obtain starting materials (i.e. marijuana seeds or plants) for production and purchase an interim supply of cannabis for medical purposes until their cannabis production is established.

6. How do I purchase cannabis for medical purposes from a Health Canada licensed producer?

There are [several steps](#) required to obtain cannabis for medical purposes from a licensed producer under ACMPR.

- Step 1: Consult with a Health Care Practitioner
- Step 2: Obtain a Medical Document completed by your Health Care Practitioner
- Step 3: Register and Order with a Licensed Producer
- Step 4: Shipping of your Cannabis for Medical Purposes

7. How can I discuss cannabis as an option to alleviate symptoms of MS with my healthcare practitioner?

We encourage people with multiple sclerosis to work with members of their MS healthcare team to discuss options in managing their MS symptoms. A comprehensive MS healthcare team includes a neurologist, family doctor, MS nurses, occupational and physical therapists, and others.

People with MS should discuss the possible benefits and risks of using cannabis for medical purposes with their healthcare team to find out if it is the right option for them.

8. How does Health Canada determine who can be a licensed producer of cannabis under the ACMPR?

Only licensed producers are permitted to sell medical cannabis products. Interested parties must apply to Health Canada to become a licensed producer. Licensed producers can be authorized to possess, sell, provide, ship, deliver, transport, destroy, produce, export and/or import cannabis for medical purposes under the ACMPR.

To obtain a producer's license from Health Canada, interested individuals or corporations must demonstrate compliance with the requirements outlined in the ACMPR.

Licensed producers must demonstrate [compliance](#) with regulatory requirements such as quality control standards, record-keeping of all activities as well as inventories of marijuana, and physical security measures to protect against potential diversion.

9. Where can I find the list of licensed producers of cannabis?

Contact information for licensed producers is available on the [Health Canada website](#).

10. What can licensed producers of cannabis sell to people who participate under the new regulations?

Licensed producers can sell dried and fresh marijuana, cannabis oil and starting materials (i.e., marijuana seeds or plants).

11. How much do licensed producers of cannabis charge for cannabis for medical purposes?

You must contact the licensed producer directly for pricing information. Most licensed producers list prices for their products on their websites.

12. Where can I obtain a medical document to access cannabis under the system of licensed producers?

The medical document can be [downloaded](#) and printed from Health Canada's website. If a healthcare practitioner chooses to use a different template, then all required information, as described in the medical document template, should be provided.

13. Is cannabis for medical purposes covered by provincial drug plans?

At this time, cannabis for medical purposes is not covered by provincial drug plans and is rarely covered under private drug plans. Please check with your provider to confirm the coverage status. If you are a veteran, you may have coverage through [Veterans Affairs Canada](#).

14. What is the MS Society's position on cannabis for medical purposes?

The MS Society of Canada supports the right to affordable and accessible treatment of medical cannabis (also known as medical marijuana) to alleviate symptoms in adults living with MS, in compliance with the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations. While the MS Society of Canada respects the autonomy of all persons with MS in making decisions that affect the quality and outcome of their lives, we also acknowledge that research to support the use of medical cannabis for symptom management is limited and additional research is needed to fully understand its medicinal effects. People living with MS are encouraged to talk with their healthcare team to discuss their options in managing their MS symptoms.

15. What kind of support can the MS Society provide for people with MS for their symptoms?

Multiple sclerosis is a complex disease with a wide array of symptoms, and Canadians with MS need to access as many therapeutic options as possible to manage their symptoms effectively. There are a variety of symptom management medications and non-medical interventions that can manage symptoms, including cannabis for medical purposes and the Health Canada approved cannabis-derived drug Sativex®. People living with MS are encouraged to have ongoing consultations with their MS healthcare team to discuss their options in managing their MS symptoms.

16. Where can I find information on research on medical cannabis in MS?

The MS Society has a [hot topics webpage](#) focused on how medical cannabis works, research on medical cannabis in MS, Canadian studies on medical cannabis and MS, medical cannabis use in children and adolescents with MS, and challenges on conducting medical cannabis research.

Health Canada Resources:

[Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations](#)

[Authorized Licensed Producers of Cannabis for Medical Purposes](#)

[Understanding the New Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations](#)

[Consumer Information - Cannabis \(Marihuana, marijuana\)](#)

For individuals seeking information about the new Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations, contact Health Canada.

Toll-free: 1-866-337-7705 (8am to 6pm EST)

Email: omc-bcm@hc-sc.gc.ca

The information and links provided in this FAQ are subject to change without notice.

Source: Some of the content used in this FAQ was taken from [Health Canada](#).