**Healthcare Practitioners Can Now Access State Medical Marijuana Database**

The Cannabis Patient Protection Act (SSB 5052) went into full effect on July 1, 2016, and with it the Medical Marijuana Authorization Database was launched. The Department of Health (DOH) continues to work with the database administrators to complete all essential functions, with healthcare practitioner access being the most recent completion.

The laws and rules allow authorizing practitioners and those who prescribe or dispense controlled substances to access patient information in the database. Non-authorizing healthcare practitioners who are allowed to prescribe controlled substances may access their patients’ health care information for the purpose of providing medical care. In addition, pharmacists may access the database for pharmaceutical care. Controlled substance prescribers must have a valid DOH license and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number, and pharmacists must have only a valid DOH license for this access.

Learn more about the medical marijuana laws and rules at [www.doh.wa.gov/medicalmarijuana/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/medicalmarijuana/) and/or contact the Washington State Department of Health Medical Marijuana Program, 360-236-4819, [medicalmarijuana@doh.wa.gov](mailto:medicalmarijuana@doh.wa.gov) to receive a step-by-step guide to accessing the database.

***Note: The following is additional information that can be added to the article/e-mail/listserv before the “Learn more” section, if desired:***

Codified into RCW 69.51A, this is a complex law affecting qualifying patients and healthcare practitioners, as well as marijuana producers, processors, retail stores and their employees.

The act directed the Department of Health to:

* Contract with a third party to create and administer a medical marijuana authorization database, and adopt rules relating to the operation of the database;
* Adopt product compliance rules regarding marijuana products sold to patients; and
* Create a medical marijuana consultant certification program.

Based on the legislation passed, the department strives to:

* Ensure patients have access to higher quality products to meet their medical needs.
* Assist healthcare practitioners in understanding the law and providing guidelines when it comes to authorizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes.
* Educate the public on the laws and rules related to medical marijuana.

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