



## Do's & Don'ts of a Medical Marijuana Physician's Evaluation

Your patient's time, money, and most importantly, health are important. As they go the MMJ card application process, Cannabis Business Alliance offers tips to make sure the first step – the doctor's visit – goes smoothly. The consequences of getting something wrong can be costly, time-consuming, and may result in delays your patients' ability to responsibly and legally access medical cannabis.

### The Medical Evaluation Process

- Use a reputable physician in good standing with the Medical Board – a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) or a Doctor of Medicine (MD). Be cautious of places offering low-cost evaluations. Your patient may end up paying twice if the evaluation was done incorrectly.
  - Renewal patients should schedule medical evaluation appointments up to 2 months prior to the expiration date on the registry card.
- Bring relevant medical documentation.
- Do not allow Physician's Assistants (PAs) or Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to conduct the evaluation. Request a doctor. CDPHE can only approve applications with DO or MD recommendations.
- Many doctors offer on-site notaries so patients may choose to complete the state medical marijuana application at the same time as the medical evaluation.
- When paperwork is complete, send it in with proper payment (check or money order) and other requested documentation (ID, social security or food stamps letter if applicable) to CDPHE via certified mail. Patients should retain a copy of all paperwork.

### The Registry Card Approval Process

- If the CDPHE approves the application, a MMJ registry card (the red card) will be sent to the patient at the provided address.
- While the patient waits for response from CDPHE:
  - A NEW patient may use temporary paperwork (physician's evaluation, notarized application, certified mail receipt and valid photo ID) immediately to access medical cannabis.
    - There are limited service hours during which MMCs may serve patients with temporary paperwork – between the hours of 8AM – 5PM Monday-Friday. This is to allow MMCs to verify that the patient's application has not been denied by CDPHE. If the patient's application has been denied or appears falsified, the MMC should confiscate the patient's paperwork.
  - A RENEWAL patient currently may not use temporary paperwork. Current language requires renewal patients to present a new registry card to be served.
- If the patient receives a **letter of rejection**, they are given detailed directions for correction and allowed up to 60 days for response.
- If the patient receives an **Intent to Deny letter**, they may not apply again for 6 months.