



# Medical Marijuana Use in Colorado

Use of medical marijuana is now legal in Colorado. Many veterans with spinal cord injuries or disease suffer from significant and constant pain. In an effort to manage this pain, many have turned to the use of marijuana. Below answers a few questions about marijuana use by veterans in Colorado.

## Who is Eligible?

Veterans must be Colorado residents and have a physician who prescribes marijuana as treatment for an eligible medical condition. Eligible medical conditions include cancer, glaucoma, HIV or AIDS positive, cachexia, sever pain, severe nausea, seizures, and persistent muscle spasms.

## How to Get a Colorado Medical Marijuana Registry ID Card?

If a veteran is eligible to use marijuana, he or she must obtain a Medical Marijuana Registry ID Card from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. To apply for a card, visit [www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/medicalmarijuana/index.html](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/medicalmarijuana/index.html) and fill out the ID Card application. Applicants must include

- an application form
- a legible photo copy of their photo ID to prove Colorado residency,
- a signed physician certification form from a licensed physician, and
- a non-refundable \$90.00 application fee

## How to Obtain Marijuana Once you have an ID Card?

Marijuana can be obtained from a dispensary anywhere in the state. Dispensaries are not registered or regulated by the State of Colorado. As a result, a list of authorized dispensaries is not available. However, a Google search for dispensaries is the easiest way to identify dispensary locations in your area.

## Will the VA Cover the Cost of my Marijuana as Part of my Medical Treatment?

The use of marijuana is illegal under Federal law, as a result, the VA does not include marijuana in its approved medical treatments. It will not pay the cost of obtaining a registry card or of the marijuana itself. However, if a veteran tests positive for marijuana and the veterans use is legal, the VA will not remove the veteran from its pain management program. The veteran must show documentation to prove his or her marijuana use is legal. Possession of marijuana in a VA facility, however, is a criminal offense. As a result, it is advised that veterans do not take their medical marijuana to appointments in any VA facilities.

## How can I carry my marijuana legally in Colorado?

While veterans that possess a registry ID Card can use marijuana and possess paraphernalia legally, there are some restrictions on its use. Specifically, you cannot use medical marijuana if

- your use endangers the health or well-being of another person
- you are in plain view of the general public
- you are in a place open to the general public
- you are driving a motor vehicle

For more information, please visit the Colorado Dept of Public Health and Environment at [www.cdphe.state.co.us](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us).

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