

Cannabis Control Division

June 14, 2023

Dear Cannabis Licensee,

On June 16, 2023, Senate Bill 242, which establishes new rules for cannabis medical identification cards and patient renewals, will go into effect. There are several changes that cannabis licensees, particularly retailers, should be aware of:

1. The "Annual Recertification" previously required every year is no longer necessary. Enrollment in the medical cannabis program will now be active for two (2) years from the approval date of a new patient application or a renewal application.

2. All digital cards have a new format that removes "Annual Verification" dates from the card. The new cards will appear as follows: [Front Side](#) and [Backside](#).

NOTE: All forms of cards (digital, paper, or plastic) issued before the enactment of Senate Bill 242, are valid up until the expiration date listed on the card and should be accepted.

3. Current patient enrollment expiration dates in the program will not change. This includes those who have a current "3-year card".

4. New medical patients, as well as patients re-enrolling, must visit their medical provider to start the medical cannabis card application through the online portal.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Even with digital cards, state identification (IDs) and patient enrollment cards **MUST** be checked at each purchase and patient enrollment must be confirmed in the Bio-Track system.
- Patients may show a print-out or screenshot of their digital card.
- Patients should start their re-enrollment process 30 days in advance of the expiration date on the medical cannabis card.
- Pursuant to NMSA 7-42-3 C, all medical cannabis patients are exempt from paying taxes on cannabis purchases up to 425 units every 90-days. Additional discounts must be separate and should not be offered in lieu of paying taxes on the 425 units.
- While medical providers should retain medical records in accordance with their licensure requirements, Cannabis Licensees (dispensaries) should NOT retain information on medical cannabis patient's medical conditions.

If you have any questions about patient enrollment or the patient medical cannabis cards, please contact the New Mexico Department of Health, Medical Cannabis Division at medical.cannabis@doh.nm.gov or (505) 917-2321.

Sincerely,

Cannabis Control Division