

Bulletin Number: DC_IB_0041	Distribution Date: 11/10/2021	Effective Date: 11/05/2021
Contact Point: ABRA	Subject: Emergency Legislation for Expired Patients, Increase Patient Allotments, and Application Requirements	

Greetings Metrc Users,

Emergency legislation aimed at ensuring medical cannabis patients have uninterrupted access to recommended medical cannabis and lowering barriers to registration is now in effect.

[The bill](#), introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson and unanimously approved by the DC Council, was signed into law by Mayor Muriel Bowser on Friday, November 5.

Key modifications include:

- Patients whose registration expired or will expire between March 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022 will remain active and can continue to purchase medical cannabis using their previously issued digital or physical registration. Valid registrations will be required on February 1, 2022. *Previously, lapsed patients were required to present a new recommendation to their dispensary if they had not previously renewed their registration to be eligible to purchase. This requirement no longer applies.*
- Persons whose new or renewal patient application is received by January 31, 2022 will receive a registration valid, if approved, for two (2) years from the date of issuance for the same fee as a one-year card. *Previously, registrations were only valid for one (1) year.*
- A recommendation from a healthcare provider is valid for two (2) years. An applicant for a new or renewal patient card can rely on a healthcare recommendation from the last two (2) years in their application. *Previously, patients needed to be provided a new recommendation annually.*
- Patients, [including non-residents extended reciprocity](#), may purchase up to eight (8) ounces of medical cannabis per rolling 30-day period. *Previously, patients were limited to four (4) ounces over the same period.*
- Applicants are only required to provide one (1) proof of residency document with their application. The list of valid documents has been expanded to include bank statements and utility bills from a period within the two months preceding the application date. *Previously, two (2) proof of residency documents were required.*

- Healthcare practitioners are no longer subject to a recommendation maximum. *Previously, practitioners were limited to issuing a maximum of 250 recommendation per 12-month period.*

ABRA continues to offer expedited medical cannabis patient and caregiver new and renewal registrations through its **Turnaround Thursday** initiative.

Every Thursday through December 16, 2021 excluding Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day, applicants with complete applications will receive their digital and physical registration during their walk-in visit. ABRA's office is located at 2000 14th Street NW, Suite 400 South (Fourth Floor), Washington, DC 20009. Service hours are 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Additional information about the District's medical cannabis program is available on [ABRA's website](#).