

Ahh! It's the Medicinal Cannabis FAQ from Advanced Holistic Health

How do I setup an appointment to see a provider at your clinic? Phone → 888-508-5428

Setting up an appointment is easy! Give us a call toll free at our 24-hour *live-person* verification and appointment line. We have convenient locations in Eastgate, Bellevue just off I-90 near Factoria, and in Seattle at the base of Queen Anne.

Once I'm authorized to use and possess cannabis for medical purposes, will you verify that I'm an active patient whenever I need you to?

We provide a truly live person 24/7 verification of your active patient status whenever you need us to! Whether it be a law enforcement officer at 3am or a marijuana cooperative group at 8pm, we provide instant round the clock verification through the toll free line above; so we are there whenever you need us.

Do I need to be referred to your clinic by another health care provider?

Absolutely not! One of the primary reasons for a clinic such as ours is to provide patients with all of the medical options available to them, including medicinal cannabis. And you, as the patient, have the right to seek out this therapy on your own.

Can you tell me the process of getting a cannabis evaluation?

When you arrive at our office, you will be asked to fill out a medical history form along with some additional documents and disclosures. Patients must have on their person a valid ID or driver's license with them to establish proof of residency. If you do not have a Washington State ID or a Washington State driver's license we can use another State ID or a Passport along with a utility bill, lease, bank statement, and a valid local mailing address to establish your proof of residency. The whole process takes 30-45 minutes. After the evaluation is completed you will be given your recommendation and your official Ahh! medicinal cannabis green card. That's all there is to it!

What do I need to bring to my visit? Do I need medical records?

Please bring in your Driver's license, your Washington State-issued ID card, or some other proof of Washington State residency (see above). To obtain a 1-year authorization initially, you will need to bring in some medical records or a letter from your current health care provider documenting a qualifying condition. However, we recognize that many people cannot afford regular health care and you may not have any current medical records. Additionally, gaining access to health care records is many times costly and difficult for you, and some patients may be concerned about their own provider's reaction to coming for a cannabis evaluation clinic. So, for all those reasons, we *do not require* you to bring medical records. Simply, if you are unable to bring records to your visit, then the evaluation will still be performed by taking into account your own medical history. To assist with the evaluation a non-invasive physical exam will be performed and you will also be asked to come back for a follow up re-evaluation to see how your condition is responding to medicinal cannabis. So even without records, you will still be authorized from the time of your first visit!

How do I get medical records to you? FAX → 206-826-6399

There are 4 ways to obtain your medical records to provide supporting documentation of your qualifying condition:

- 1) You can go to your doctor / hospital / clinic, etc. and request records to be given to you directly. You then can either FAX them in to us in advance of your appointment or follow-up; or even better just bring them in on the day of your appointment!
- 2) You can go to your doctor / hospital / clinic, etc. and request records to be FAX'd directly to us. Your provider's office staff will have you fill out a medical records request and disclosure form and you provide them our FAX number.
- 3) You can print out the medical records request form online from the link found on the home page of this website. The link is called "Printable Medical Records Request Form" and is found directly underneath the FAQ link. Fill it out completely and send it to your doctor by mail or FAX.
- 4) You can come in to our office and have us send out the medical records request with your signature. This is the easiest method for you, but without the records upfront we will require a follow-up visit at about 6 months.

What is a qualifying condition?

In 1998 voters in the State of Washington approved the use of cannabis to treat certain medical conditions. Some of the conditions are very specific like HIV or MS, and some are more symptomatic-based like chronic intractable pain, nausea and vomiting, wasting syndrome, loss of appetite, muscle spasms etc. We will assist you to obtain the appropriate authorization pertinent to your individual condition and health history, but you *must* have one of the following conditions to qualify:

- **Cancer** (including but not limited to tumors of the Brain, Breast, Cervix, Lung, Prostate, Skin and Lymphatic System / Lymphoma) – the cannabinoids can have direct anti-tumor effects
- **HIV infection or AIDS**
- **Multiple Sclerosis (MS)**
- **Glaucoma** (Acute or Chronic)
- **Crohn's Disease**
- **Any Seizure Disorder**
- **Hepatitis C** with symptoms
- **Renal Failure on Hemodialysis**
- **Asthma / Bronchospasm** (Classified as a Spasticity Disorder: Cannabis is a natural bronchial dilator and anti-spasmodic. In treatment of constrictive respiratory syndromes cannabis patients should primarily use the vaporized form of medicine.)
- **Intractable Pain** unrelieved by standard medical treatments
- Diseases which cause **Anorexia** (a severe and persisting loss of appetite)
- Diseases which cause frequent or chronic **Nausea and Vomiting**
- Diseases which cause a **Wasting Syndrome** (significant unintentional loss of weight)
- Diseases which cause any **Muscle Spasms, Cramping, or other Spasticity**

What is the evaluation fee? How much?

Like any doctor's visit there is a fee, and unfortunately there is no insurance coverage for this type of evaluation and treatment, just like other elective treatments such as cosmetic surgery. However, since the ahh! clinic works out of a small personal office, we are able to keep the fee very reasonable and affordable: The evaluation fee is just \$160 for first-time new patients (and that fee *includes* a wallet-size authorization with clinic ID). Furthermore we offer a special rate for all renewals at just \$100. The renewal rate applies to both ahh! patients as well as to all other Washington State existing medicinal cannabis patients. Unfortunately, out-of-State cannabis patients must undergo the full new patient evaluation, since the medical medicinal cannabis laws and qualifying conditions vary greatly from State-to-State.

As an additional service you can get extra or replacement original tamper-resistant authorization for just \$20 either during your visit or in the future. You do get one included with your base visit; multiple authorizations are simply an option for you. As of July 2011, the law now requires you as a patient to be able to produce the original (not a copy) document to law enforcement if challenged and so for this reason you can obtain multiple originals for your safety. Our optional authorizations do also include a provider contract and you can use it to have someone else grow your medicine for you.

Do you offer "lifetime" authorizations?

No, on the simple fact that a "lifetime prescription" for anything with no requirements for future follow-up and evaluation falls outside of standard medical practice. Simply, then, a "lifetime cannabis authorization" without the addition of documented and routine follow-ups could be invalidated by a prosecuting attorney – the very thing that you really need your authorization to stand up against. Some patients, however, clearly fall into those chronic debilitating categories where no significant improvement is expected over time. Therefore we do offer both 2-year and 5-year options for qualifying patients who do have solid medical records and routine care established through another provider. Authorizations based on legitimacy are the foundation of Advanced Holistic Health medical marijuana evaluations.

Do I have to pay the evaluation fee if I do not receive a marijuana recommendation?

No. If the provider does not approve you, you do not have to pay any fees. In other words, you only pay the evaluation fee if you are approved.

What is the minimum age to be patient?

There is no minimum age specified in the Washington State medicinal cannabis law. Studies have shown, however, that early heavy cannabis use while the brain is still undergoing developmental changes may be damaging (just as early tobacco and alcohol use may also contribute), so only in exceptional cases would a minor receive a medicinal cannabis authorization. The ahh! clinic policy is to request both medical records and parental consent for individuals under the age of 21. Certainly patients between the age of 18 and 21 are at the age of majority and can make their own medical decisions, but we have found that potential patients in that age range are often living with parents at home and there may be extenuating medical history information that we need to get directly from the patient's parent as well as previous health care providers involved in their care. So, without parental consent *plus* previous medical records, the minimum age for an ahh! patient is 21.

Will there be any privacy issues when I have a medicinal cannabis recommendation?

No – unlike some other States, in the State of Washington there is no State Registry of Cannabis Patients and that is the reason there is no state cannabis ID card. Thus, your doctor's visit is protected under the privacy laws of HIPPA and nobody will know that you are a patient but you (or anyone you show your ID or authorization to!).

Do you see patients for other conditions?

Yes! This is certainly one of the best reasons for choosing Advanced Holistic Health as your medicinal cannabis evaluation clinic – once you are an established patient with the clinic, as long as you maintain a valid authorization with us, you can be seen for other minor problems or medical concerns for a low fee. Our primary goal is to provide this service to our patients without health insurance, but the same low cash price is an option for anyone in our active patient database.