

NOTICE

About Medical Marijuana

Dr Leigh does not sign Medical Marijuana applications for first-time applicants.

She recommends you visit an OMMP-affiliated clinic like the Compassion Center (541-484-6558) to help with your application - after seeing her or another practitioner for primary care. Read on to find out why!

1. By law, you must be registered with a primary care physician, or a nurse-practitioner or physician assistant supervised by such a physician, who has documented your qualifying medical condition, in order to enter the OMMP (Oregon Medical Marijuana Program).
2. Most primary physicians do **NOT** sign OMMP applications. Their job is to provide a medical evaluation and suggest medical treatment. They do NOT specialize in OMMP evaluations.
3. After seeing your primary doctor, please return to an OMMP clinic, like the Compassion Center, for your OMMP evaluation. They will help you obtain your old records. You will see another doctor (including a confirmatory physical exam). The OMMP doctor **DOES** specialize in OMMP evaluations, and will sign your application if it is medically appropriate.

The OMMP has strict guidelines regarding the medical conditions that qualify for self-treatment with cannabis. **Only certain health conditions are qualifying for OMMP.** These include:

Cancer	Seizure disorder
HIV/AIDS	Intractable severe pain
Glaucoma	Intractable severe vomiting
Alzheimer's agitation	Intractable severe muscle spasms
Cachexia (inability to maintain normal weight)	

Some conditions that are **NOT** qualifying include:

<i>Anxiety, PTSD, mental-health/developmental conditions</i>	<i>Acute pain from recent injury (in past 6-12 months)</i>
<i>Insomnia</i>	<i>Asthma</i>
<i>Unable to use, or prefer not to use, prescription medications for treatable health conditions</i>	

The purpose of OMMP-affiliated clinics is to help patients navigate the complex State and Federal legal structures around medical marijuana, and to create an individualized plan of treatment using this medication, which ordinary medical doctors are not trained to do.

Clinics also securely store your medical records, help you stay legal until your official card arrives, and offer regular classes and networking meetings for members, with up-to-date information about the best and safest use of this medication for particular health conditions.

Although they do charge a fee for their services, it compares fairly with the "usual and customary" fees in our area, for these kinds of medical services.

What to look for in a clinic:

- A professional medical atmosphere.
- Properly qualified medical professionals.
- Personal health conditions are discussed in private only, according to Federal healthcare privacy laws.
- Health records are stored securely, and you can obtain copies for your own use, according to Federal healthcare privacy laws.
- Specific issues with obtaining and using medical marijuana are addressed with clinic staff in private, or with others consensually in a classroom setting.
- Noisy, upset, disruptive, or intoxicated patients are promptly moved out of the waiting area.

In my experience, this is the atmosphere the Compassion Center Provides. I cannot vouch for other local clinics. Please see www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp to find out more, and please contact me if you have other questions.

-- Dr Leigh (Leigh Saint-Louis, M.D.)

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