Sales to Patients and Caregivers Outside the Dispensary Department

Updated 4/3/2020

In order to reduce opportunities for patient and caregiver exposure during the COVID-19 outbreak, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has adopted the following resolution to permit medical marijuana dispensaries to temporarily conduct sales to patients and caregivers outside of the dispensary department. The temporary sales outside of the dispensary department may only be permitted if the dispensary complies with the minimum guidelines outlined below.

Examples of authorized sales include delivering product to a person in the parking lot of the dispensary, a person at the front entrance of the dispensary, or a person at a walk-up or drive-thru window of the dispensary.

This resolution and the guidance outlined below are being issued in accordance with a Board resolution adopted on March 2, 2020.

If allowing patients and caregivers to purchase medical marijuana outside the dispensary department, dispensaries must adhere to the following:

1. The purchase of product, including all monetary transactions, must take place on the dispensary’s property (i.e. parking lot or sidewalk of dispensary).

2. Dispensaries may not deliver medical marijuana to a patient or caregiver’s home or any other off-site location.

3. All products must be reviewed with the patient or caregiver prior to completion of sale to prevent dispensing errors.

4. The patient or caregiver’s registry card, approved identification, valid recommendation, and remaining days’ supply must be verified prior to purchase.

5. The dispensary must provide employees with frequent breaks to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If available, dispensaries should also consider the use of gloves.

6. Cash must be taken into the dispensary department after each transaction.

7. Medical marijuana products, including those that are awaiting pick-up, must be maintained in the dispensary department until the patient arrives.

8. Security personnel must be present for outdoor sales. **NOTE:** A dispensary may use existing security personnel. However, if the dispensary does not have existing security staff, a licensed security guard is required.

9. The purchase of product must take place under coverage of one of the required security cameras.

10. Outdoor sales may only occur between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

11. A dispensary must comply with all other dispensing requirements (i.e. labeling, reporting to OARRS, etc.).
12. The dispensary must notify its assigned compliance agent by email prior to offering sales outside of the dispensary department.

13. Dispensaries are required to ensure that implementation of this resolution does not cause major disruption to any neighboring businesses that are open during this time. If there is too much disruption on the streets leading to and surrounding the dispensary, too much traffic as a result, or other public safety or health problems, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy reserves the right to revoke this temporary authorization – either statewide or for an individual location.

This resolution and guidance shall remain in effect during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020 but may also be rescinded by the Board at any time.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- This is a choice for dispensaries to consider; it is not mandated that you implement sales outside of the dispensary department. Please consider your safety and the safety of your employees if you decide to implement this option.

- This resolution does **NOT** change any city or county ordinances and does **NOT** change any lease or rental agreements you may have.