

Proposed Dispensary Guidelines For Safe Access in San Francisco

A California Cannabis Dispensary supplies cannabis to California patients with a valid doctors recommendation [under the protection and authorization of CA HSC 11362.5 and SB420], who need relief from a condition or symptom from which they are suffering, and who choose to use cannabis for that purpose.

The following conditions to dispensary services reflect a balance of the value of autonomy, self-regulation and adherence to the current legal and political climate:

1. Dispensary Qualifications for Licensing

Dispensaries must:

- Operate further than 1000 feet from all schools, recreation centers, or youth centers.
- Provide access for the disabled.
- Submit a mission statement outlining its purpose and intent.
- Provide social and therapeutic services.
- Follow fair market value pricing.
- Pass all applicable zoning inspections.
- Enact a Compassionate Care program.

2. Dispensary Responsibilities

To Patients: Dispensaries must provide safe access in a clean, friendly and secure environment for patients, staff and neighborhood. Safe access includes:

- Handicap accessibility.
- Knowledgeable and courteous staff.
- Provide an area for patients to medicate safely on site.
- Strict quality controls regarding medicine handling and storage.
- Provide information and resources for Patients and Public.
- Provide affordable, quality medicine for patients in need.
- Dispensaries should establish fair practice compassion programs to help cover the cost of medicine for needy patients.
- Dispensaries shall not participate in “excessive profits” which means the sales of medicine must not be substantially higher than fair market value.

To Community: Dispensaries are responsible for their impact on local communities and neighbors.

Dispensaries must:

- Maintain a clean, friendly, well-lit and safe store-front.
- Open communication with any applicable neighborhood associations and groups.
- Ensure proper security and concern for patients entering and exiting dispensary ensuring safety and discouraging resale.

To City and State: Dispensaries are required to adhere to any and all applicable or upcoming laws, rules, and regulations including but not limited to:

- Zoning laws.
- Health and Safety codes.
- Labor laws.
- Licensing regulations set forth by the City and State.

3. Dispensary Rights

Dispensaries reserve certain rights, which include but are not limited to:

Patients:

- The right to refuse service should a patient become violent or disrespectful of basic common courtesies.
- The right for a dispensary to retain enough medicine to fulfill patient needs.
- The right to purchase medicine for patients, from reputable sources in a secure and confidential manner.

Community:

- The right to charge fair market, value, in order to assure and maintain quality control and to compensate for compassionate donation expenses.

City and State:

- The right to offer access, under the protection and authorization of the City and State. This includes the protection of local and state law enforcement agencies, as well as being eligible for insurances [worker's comp, liability, etc.].

4. Patient Qualifications for Access

Verification of Doctors Medical Cannabis Recommendation:

- Dispensaries in the state of California require a Therapeutic Cannabis Recommendation and a City, County or State Government Issued Medical Cannabis ID Card to allow entry to patients.
- An entity or organization that cultivates or distributes medicinal cannabis is not authorized to produce a verification ID to be used by patients to gain access in to clubs.
- In order to access cannabis, members must be 18 years or older, or have written consent from a parent or legal guardian. Eligibility for Cannabis can only be decided by a California Licensed Doctor.

[Eligible conditions include, but are not limited to: HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Fibromyalgia, Multiple Sclerosis, Seizure disorders, chronic pain, severe weight loss, raised intra-ocular pressure/Glaucoma, severe nausea, migraines, Hepatitis C, Crone's disease, Colitis, Irritable Bowel syndrome, Anorexia and other eating disorders, Stress and Anxiety disorders, Depression, substance addiction].

- Due to the severity of the illness or disability some patients may need the assistance of a caregiver into the dispensary or simply just to purchase for them. For a person to assume caregiver status, a note from the patient's doctor must be obtained stating that that patient can not physically or mentally obtain their medication and is in need of assistance. That assigned caregiver will have an expiration date determined by the patients doctor as to the duration. The caregivers expiration date may not exceed the patients expiration date.

5. Dispensary Policy

Variety of Strains

Offering a variety of cannabis strains is essential, in order to effectively treat a wide variety of symptoms and conditions. This means a wide selection of indica [physical relief], sativa [mental relief] and cross strains as well as hash, keif, oils, edibles, tinctures, salves, teas, etc.

Compassionate Care Program

Dispensaries must offer cannabis to patients in need on an as needed, donation basis.

Staffing/ Proper Training

Staff at a dispensary should be very familiar with cannabis, have an understanding of social and economic issues that affect San Francisco Patients, and be truly compassionate people.

- Employees of a dispensary must have First Aid/ CPR certification.
- Employees must be prepared to deal with infected blood, seizures, strokes, falls, mental health issues and basics skills in dealing with disabled patients and harm reduction.
- Staff must be well informed about the medicinal differences between strains and be able to assist the patient in finding the proper medicine as well as dosages.
- Staff must be made fully aware of the risks involved in dispensing medicinal cannabis, including Federal prosecution.

Packaging of Cannabis and Edibles

All products shall be well packaged and presented. Packaging and labels shall clearly state:

- For Medicinal Use Only.
- Not Intended for Resale.
- CA HSC 11362.7/ SB420
- CA HSC 11362.5/ Prop 215
- Proper Dosage.

Handling and Storage/ Quality Control

Clean Hands must be used while handling cannabis and edibles.

Cannabis

- Cannabis should be stored in a cool, dry location in glass or plastic food quality containers.
- Cannabis shall be inspected for contaminants, molds and insects.

- Cannabis shall be made available in a well-lit, clean display.

Edibles

- Dispensaries will form quality control standards with medicated food product vendors to ensure safe and clean preparation.
- All Medicated Food Products will be regulated under California Food Safety Regulations.
- Dispensaries will counsel patients on proper dosages, but are not liable for over medication on the part of the patient.

Pricing

Medicinal cannabis MUST be affordable to those in need. At this time MEDI-CAL and Private Health Insurance does not cover medicinal cannabis expenses. Dispensaries MUST help patients cover the cost of their medicine. Patients should not be forced to go without. Dispensaries must have a Compassionate Care Programs to help cover the cost of medicine for needy patients.

- Provide affordable, quality medicine for patients in need.
- Dispensaries should establish fair practice compassion programs to help cover the cost of medicine for needy patients.
- Dispensaries shall not participate in "excessive profits" which means the sales of medicine must not be substantially higher than Fair Market Value.
- Fair Market Value shall be determined by patient need, product availability and product cost.

Quantity to Dispense

Pursuant to CA HSC 11362.77, a qualified patient, or designated caregiver may possess any amount of marijuana consistent with their medical needs.

Quantity in Stock

Dispensaries reserve the right to retain enough medicine on site to fulfill patient needs.

Access for Disabled

Dispensaries shall adhere to any applicable ADA and City and State Regulations.

Cleanliness Standards

Dispensaries must be cleaned regularly and they must:

- Maintain high standards of cleanliness to prevent the spread of disease and infection.
- Provide sanitizing options for smoking/vaporizing tools.
- Make available trashcans and recycling bins.
- Have a clean, well-stocked restroom.

Security Standards

Dispensaries must have professional, courteous and dedicated security personnel.

- Security is responsible for checking validity and expiration dates of accepted medicinal cannabis ID cards.
- Security should offer information and resources to patients.
- Security should provide assistance to patients if they can not medicate by themselves.

General Safety/ Security Considerations

- Proper security and concern for patients entering and exiting dispensary ensuring safety and discouraging resale.