

Guidelines for Washington State Medical Cannabis Cooperative Distribution Networks

Green Buddha Patient Network – Seattle

These guidelines may serve as a standard of self-regulation for medical marijuana cooperative distribution networks for Washington State. Medical marijuana cooperative distribution networks (MMnets) include all manner of medical marijuana patient collectives, groups and networks which are following the spirit of King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg's Medical Marijuana Case Review Standards:

In our experience, there are cases where groups of individuals share, distribute, and cooperate in the growing and distribution of marijuana to those medically in need. While ideally all involved would have proper medical documentation, we do not wish to prosecute these operations so long as it is clear that qualifying patients/providers are distributing to other qualifying patients/providers, and that someone in the operation has the proper documentation in compliance with RCW 69.51A

Thus an additional purpose would be to promote understanding to various levels of government, law enforcement and community leaders so as to ensure effective cooperation, in the hopes of better enabling those with medical need to have access to quality medicine in maximum safety and therapeutic potential.

I General

A. The purpose of MMnets is to provide quality medical marijuana resources, including medication, to qualifying patients/providers who have undergone an application process that includes the verification of the necessary documentation.

B. Location – MMnets shall have their offices in locations of acceptance within the greater community. Thus they should not be near schools, in residential areas, or in “Drug Free” zones etc. The premise shall maintain a discreet store front. Only legal patients/providers shall be allowed on-site. No admittance shall ever be given to the general public. No weapons shall be allowed on site. The MMnets office shall be wheelchair accessible and in compliance with the American Disabilities Act.

II Patient Access

A. Eligibility – all residents of Washington State who hold a valid and current medical marijuana authorization from a physician licensed to practice in Washington State shall be eligible. Only those patients who have undergone a verification of their legal documentation shall be admitted as members. Verification shall include (but not be limited to) getting a positive response from the authorizing physician as to the

- validity of the document. In addition, legal patients under the age of 21 shall be required to have their parents approval for gaining entry into a MMnets.
- B. Patients shall apply to the MMnets and go through a verification procedure. This procedure includes verifying with the authorizing physician as to the validity of medical marijuana authorization under review. Once this process has been completed satisfactorily the patient/provider shall be admitted as MMnets members able to access patient resources. MMnets have the right to refuse any patient's application.
 - C. Record Keeping – A copy of the patients valid and current medical marijuana authorization as well as a photocopy of the patient's Washington State photo ID shall be retained for legal purposes. Contact information for the legal patient/provider may also be retained. In the interest of patient privacy concerns once the verification process is completed this documentation will be maintained only in digitally encrypted form. Each MMnets shall assign a person to maintain the integrity of the digital database, including backup copies.
 - D. All patient members shall be advised they must be in possession of their authorization as well as their photo ID every time they visit the MMnets.

III Dispensing Patient Resources

- A. Only valid medical marijuana patients/providers who are members (and thus have undergone a verification process) shall receive medical marijuana resources.
- B. The only fees MMnets may collect are those covering overhead and operating expenditures. MMnets shall be not-for-profit enterprises. They may be registered as Washington State Non-profit corporations.
- C. Medical marijuana resources may be provided free to qualifying patients, or may be provided in exchange for services rendered to the MMnets, or may be allocated based on fees that are reasonably calculated to cover costs and operating expenses, or any combination of these scenarios.
- D. Use of medicine on-site shall be discouraged. Absolutely no smoking on site.
- E. Each patient shall not be able to procure more than their presumptive 60 day supply as defined in Washington State.

IV Supply

- A. Only valid medical marijuana patients/providers may supply MMnets. No marijuana may be procured from the general public. All providers must also be members and thus have completed satisfactorily the application and verification process.

- B. All medical marijuana supplies shall be kept under adequate security. Supplies shall be locked away when not in use for dispensing. The use of an alarm system is recommended.
- C. All donations between members are confidential.
- D. The amount of the MMnets' medicinal resources shall never exceed the aggregate amounts tied to its active membership. In addition medicinal resources shall never exceed the aggregate amounts tied to members present on site, including staff.
- E. All medical marijuana resources, particularly edibles shall be clearly labeled as such.

V Patient Education and Legalities

A. All patient/provider members shall be made aware of the various rules and regulations of their member MMnets. All patient/provider members shall understand all patient resources are only for their medicinal use and that redistribution of resources shall result not only in their expulsion from the MMnets but may also result in legal issues. There shall be zero tolerance of redistribution of patient resources, including medication.

B. MMnets intend to educate patient/provider members as to the various strains of marijuana and their potential effects, dosage and potency information, tolerance, delivery options (edibles, sublingual, smoking and vaporizing), and other information on safe use to the best of their abilities. While they may also inform patient/providers with potential legal issues this is not to be construed with giving legal advice.