

March 25, 2020

Medical Marijuana Recommenders

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Online Consultation/Telemedicine
Via Electronic-mail

Dear Medical Marijuana Recommender,

In accordance with [Mayor Bowser's Declaration of a Public Health Emergency](#) and the District of Columbia Department of Health's Guidance on the Use of Telehealth in the District of Columbia issued March 12, 2020, in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, DC Health is encouraging the use of telehealth and the practice of social distancing to minimize the risk of disease transmission. During this public health emergency, DC Health is temporarily allowing recommenders to utilize telehealth to make medical marijuana recommendations. This will:

- Allow both patients and healthcare professionals to practice social distancing.
- Allow immunocompromised patients to visit their healthcare professional without the risk of infection of COVID-19.
- Ensure adequate healthcare professionals are available to treat patients with COVID-19.

To perform online consultations and/or telemedicine the practitioner must:

- Be an authorized practitioner who is licensed and in good standing to practice medicine, osteopathy, advanced practice registered nursing, dentistry, naturopathic medicine, or as a physician assistant in the District of Columbia.
- Be in a bona fide relationship with the qualifying patient.
- Have completed a full assessment of the patient's medical or dental history and current medical or dental condition, not more than ninety (90) days prior to making the recommendation.
- Have responsibility for the ongoing care and treatment of the patient either directly or in consultation with another licensed authorized practitioner.
- Make the recommendation based upon the authorized practitioner's assessment of the qualifying patient's:
 - Medical or dental history.
 - Current medical or dental condition.

- A review of other approved medications and treatments that might provide the qualifying patient with relief from a qualifying medical or dental condition or the side effects of a qualifying medical or dental treatment.
- Not be the owner, director, officer, member, incorporator, agent, or employee of a dispensary, cultivation center, or testing laboratory.

Please visit Title 22-C Chapter 800 – 805 of the [Medical Marijuana Regulations](#) to ensure that you comply with all other areas of the recommendation process. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

For resources and additional information on the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.

Sincerely,



Arian R. Gibson, M.S
Associate Director, Office of Food, Drug, Radiation and Community Hygiene