

# CANCARD AWARE

A DOCUMENT FOR BUSINESS



CANCARD

## WHAT IS CANCARD?

**'This is my second stop since I got my Cancard and I don't know how I would have managed without it to be honest it makes me stressed thinking about it.**

**It's already saved me two cannabis fines at £90 each and I work in a place where they do DBS checks every so often so its possibly saved me my job also. The second time I was carrying enough to last me 6 weeks so I wouldn't have been able to afford to replace it.**

**When I showed my card the attitudes of the officer changed so much and it was so much less stressful. They were very compassionate the officer the second time said his daughter has Crohn's too'.**

**- Crohn's Patient, MET area**

**'I would have lost my council house of 16 years and been charged if it wasn't for you.**

**Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of the time you have put into helping me, especially Carly who has been there whenever I needed her.'**

**- Cancer patient, Norfolk area**

## RATIONALE

Times are changing: **1.4 million** people with life limiting health conditions in the UK are consuming medicinal cannabis.

Private clinics are prescribing cannabis flower and cannabis oil and, under these circumstances, cannabis is legal. Those who cannot afford a private prescription can apply for a medical ID Cancard, designed in collaboration with the National Police Chief's Council.

Brands should train their staff to account for these changes.

Disabled people and those with life limiting health conditions deserve to be able to enjoy brand facilities without discrimination.

## WHAT IS CANCARD?

Cancard provides validation to the police, or any third party, that its holder is consuming cannabis for medical reasons. Cancard is recognised by the police as medical identification and permits officers to use discretion with patients on the basis that they are consuming medicinal cannabis.



## THE SITUATION

Medicinal cannabis was made legal in the UK in 2018. Despite this, access to it is only available for the affluent through costly private clinics. While we await NHS access to be expedited, approximately 1.4 million people in the UK are genuine patients who are currently living under the shadow of potential criminalisation because they cannot afford to access their medicine via private prescription.

In order to help police identify these genuine medicinal consumers, Cancard was launched with the assistance of policing organisations and doctors. Cancard exists to assist front-line police officers when dealing with medicinal possession cases. Cancard verifies genuine medical patients, so that the police don't have to. To date (September 2021), 98.7% of Cancard holders involved in a police stop and search have been left with their medication by police.

Cancard can also be used in other circumstances such as by businesses and organisations to verify that the holder is a genuine medicinal cannabis patient with a life-limiting illness.

# 98.7%

of Cancard holders involved in a police stop and search have been left with their medication by police.

## OBTAINING A CARD

In order to secure a Cancard, patients must have a medical condition which is eligible for a private cannabis prescription in the UK. This list of conditions is increasing as more are added and include: Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Crohns, arthritis chronic pain and PTSD - to name just a few.

Patients with an eligible condition must prove their medical condition, via their GP, and present evidence of their identity. This information is then 'passport standard' verified and the patient is issued with a Cancard.

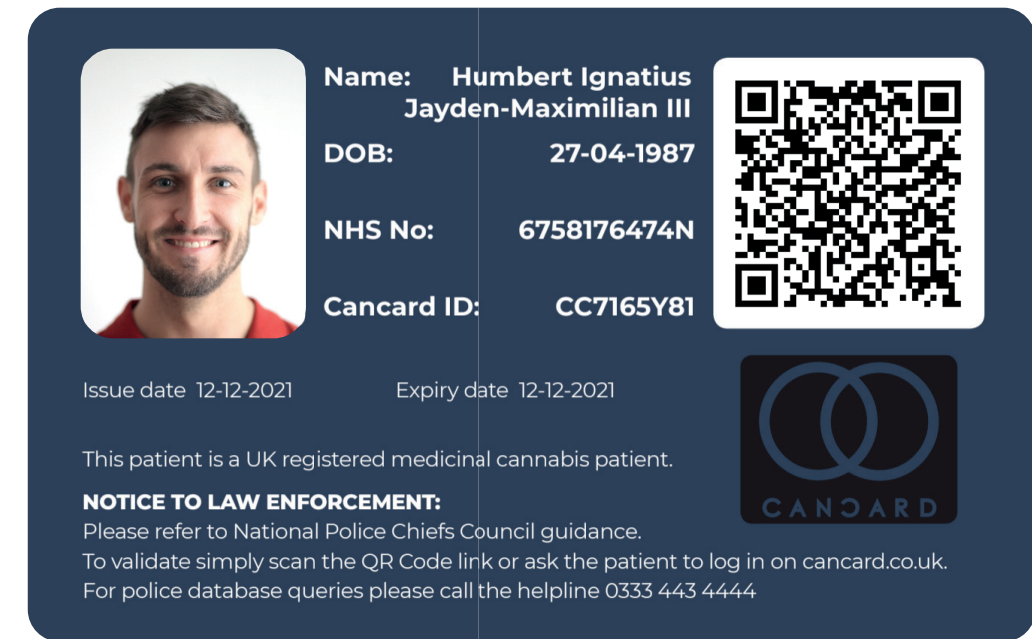
## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A proportion of your customers are likely to be medicinal cannabis consumers who do not have a private prescription but who may have a Cancard.

**1.4 MILLION**  
PEOPLE IN THE UK CONSUME CANNABIS MEDICINALLY DAILY

This group of patients are often vulnerable and many experience discrimination because of their medical requirements and treatment. It is important that businesses and organisations are aware of this to prevent discrimination of a vulnerable minority group.

## HOW TO VERIFY



Example rear of card

Should the unlikely occasion occur when a patient is asked to present a Cancard and there is a need to verify the Cancard, the patient should be treated with discretion and care.

1. Ask the patient to scan their QR code to verify that their card is genuine. Cancard patients have gone through thorough extensive medical checks to ensure the patient is eligible.
2. Call the helpline on the card if you are still unsure of the validity. You will find the number on the back of the card. This also provides a back-up service if the patient presents without a phone. This operates 9am-9pm daily.

We would hope that there would be no further need for action if you are satisfied that the patient is presenting a genuine registration card.

## WHAT ABOUT OTHER CUSTOMERS?

Medicinal cannabis is becoming more widely accepted in the UK, but we are still lagging behind many other countries.

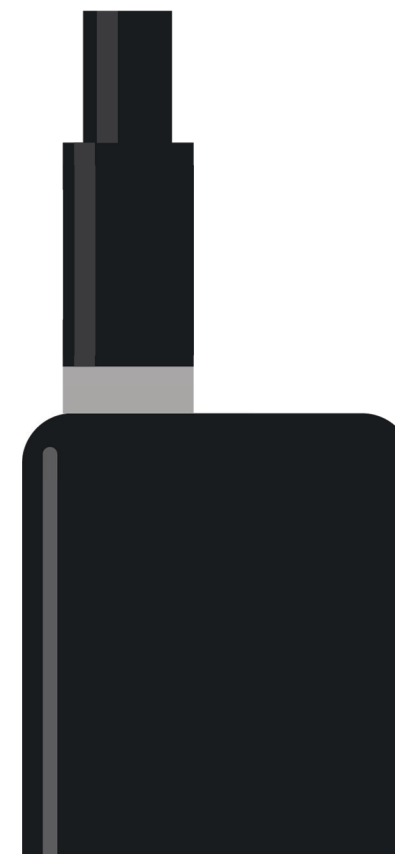
More recently, public opinion polls have indicated a growing acceptance and understanding of cannabis for medicinal use. A 2019 poll commissioned by the Conservative Drug Policy Reform Group indicated that **77%** of respondents agreed that medicinal cannabis use should be permitted.

Although there still exists a stigma around cannabis consumption, this is changing. Cancard has been included in a number of internal police drugs policies.

Greater acceptance and understanding of these issues are creating a climate of inclusion and equality for disabled patients and, at Cancard, we recognise that businesses and organisations can be at the forefront of this.

## THE RULES FOR PATIENTS

- A** medical inhaler should be used when taking your medicine. Smoking is not permitted.
- B** e prepared, on request, to show your card to staff.
- C** onsume your medication in appropriate or designated areas.
- D** on't leave your medication unattended, keep it on your person in a safe place.
- E** veryone has the right to enjoy their experience, be mindful of other members of the public.



Example of a medical inhaler



## GET VERIFIED

You can now display your 'Cancard Aware' sticker in your window, showing customers that your business is aware of patients who consume medicinal cannabis and know about Cancard - but is this enough?

At Cancard, we run a free training session to enable your company to become Cancard Certified. We consider businesses and organisations who complete this course to be part of the Cancard family. Organisations who go on to become certified will have their company listed on the Cancard website as a 'safe space' for patients, and with over 40,000 members and 1000 visitors a day, it pays to become certified!



Cancard aware sticker example

## FACT SHEET

- 1.** Private prescriptions currently cost upwards of £1500 per month.
- 2.** Approximately 90 prescriptions are written daily for cannabis flower in the UK for those who can afford it.
- 3.** Cancard holders medically and legally qualify for a private prescription and the ID is proof that they should be accessing one. The simple fact that they cannot afford to pay for a private prescription can otherwise place them in a position where they are in conflict with the law.
- 4.** There are approx 2300 patients with private prescriptions and 40,000 Cancard holders.
- 5.** 98.7% of Cancard holders found in possession are left in possession by police.
- 6.** Prescription cannabis looks and smells identical to self sourced cannabis.



“ Firstly I'd just like to say thank you so much for what you have all done for myself and all the many many patients you are helping have a better way of life.

I'm messaging today just to say that my life has changed so much thanks to cancard.

I'm an army veteran that has a really difficult journey. I was being seen as a criminal and was looking at prison time but thanks to Cancard and my prescription that isn't the case.

Also, cannabis has helped evolve my life to a completely different level in so many ways for the better. ”





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