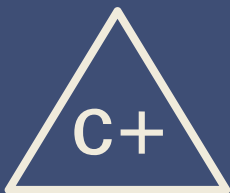
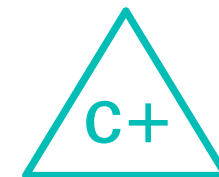




can card +

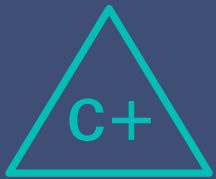




Overview

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c a n c a r d +



**Backed by Police.
Designed with doctors.
Made for patients.**

Hello and welcome to Cancard,

Cancard is a verified medical ID document that is proof that a patient has a condition for which they should be accessing a legal cannabis prescription. In light of the cost implications of obtaining a private prescription, Cancard is a flag for both law enforcement and the general public that a person is utilising self-sourced cannabis medicinally. They are only in contravention of the Drugs Act, because they are unable to afford to sustain the cost of buying a private prescription and the immunity from prosecution that comes with it. All forces in the UK will be briefed on the card to give them confidence in using their given discretion in simple cases of possession.

'We all know that cases where patients have proved legitimate medicinal use are unlikely to make it to court and if they do they do these cases are consistently dropped. This is especially the case whereby a patient presents with a condition that is being privately prescribed for. There is currently no way of identifying these people before emotional distress has been caused and public resources have been wasted. There is an opportunity to provide something that changes this by way of unofficially decriminalising on the basis that they are unlikely to obtain a conviction.'

Carly Barton, Cancard creator



Responsible medicating

In order to minimise the likelihood of any issues with consuming your medicine we have made some handy bullet points for you to follow.

- **Dry herb vaporisers are your best friend**
Vaporisers are a great alternative to smoking. Not only is this a more flexible, economic and safe way of getting cannabinoids into your system, they mitigate the chances of concern around passive inhalation and smell complaints. They are easier on the lungs, the pocket and the community.
- **Be considerate in public and at home**
It goes without saying that you would be mindful of exhaling anything around children or other members of the public. We recommend that you do not vaporise in or around schools or spaces where minors congregate. Please also be mindful of your neighbours and always store your medicine in a safe place as you would any other medication.



- **Carrying and division**
Some patients like to divide their medicine into small doses or containers for transport, particularly if they are away from home for some time. This is not advisable as during a stop an officer may suspect that sub-division is due to intent to supply. Unless you are separating strains, it is advised to only carry what is required in one container. Carbon lined pouches are very handy for keeping smells at bay during a day-trip.
- **Be mindful of side effects**
Cannabis-based medicines are incredibly effective for a number of conditions, however as with any drug, cannabis does have side effects so be mindful of how cannabis affects you and be considerate in your actions after medicating, especially any actions that are likely to effect other or cause a safety concern.

Things to do list:



① Download the Cancard app

You can either tap (if you have an RFID enabled device) or log in to verify your card

Here you can access the stop and search guide and also add care notes for an officer in the case of a stop. This may be something to do with your needs such as: 'I have PTSD and stammer when I am nervous. I may need extra time and some patience'.

- **Read and digest the Cancard stop and search guide**

We have included this in the booklet but it can also be accessed via the Cancard app and on our website Cancard.co.uk.

- **Put your card somewhere safe**

It is important to carry your card with you at all times, especially if you are leaving the house with a small amount of cannabis on your person. It should fit snugly into a wallet or purse.

- **Make a note of our e-mail address**

Although there are likely to be no issues if you are stopped with a Cancard in possession of cannabis, our friends at Mackrell solicitors are there to help you with other legal advice, such as issues with family court etc. Just drop us an email and we will introduce you.

- **Keep an eye on our social media streams**

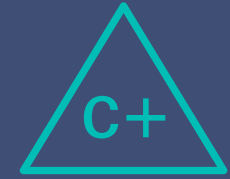
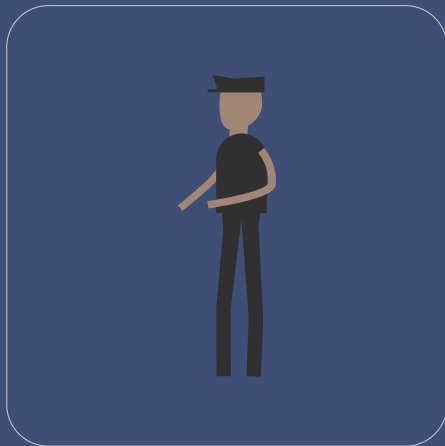
Follow Cancard for access to our upcoming patient forums, cannapedia and news about how we are helping to shape new policy around the cultivation, possession and access to medicinal cannabis in the UK.

Be prepared for a stop

The police and policing organisations support **Cancard** and helped to implement it.

Even though law enforcement do not wish to criminalise patients, the law on possession of cannabis has not yet changed, so it is helpful to be prepared for the chance of a stop.

This will help you to feel calm and confident in the case that it happens. You can always use your Cancard app to bring up your guide during a stop.



- **Stay Calm**

Remaining calm will make it easier for your communication with the officer and will help to resolve this encounter faster. Remember, the police officer is reacting to the situation in front of them. The calmer the situation, the easier it is for the officer to consider alternative ways for them to find a solution. Take deep breaths and try to be polite, respectful and composed. Your calm attitude will help to start the conversation on the right foot.

- **Show Your Card**

Show your Cancard to the officer at the earliest opportunity. In England and Wales, officers are able to use their discretion where they believe it's the right thing to do. Give the officer some basic information about Cancard to help them make an informed decision. Having a Cancard proves you are entitled to a medical cannabis prescription, so be confident about showing it. You may use your phone to sign in to the app to verify that you have a genuine card.

- **Engage Positively**

Communicating openly and being honest can lead to a positive interaction between you and the officer. Treat it as a conversation in which you can show that you have taken the steps to identify yourself as a legitimate medical cannabis patient. On the back of the card, officers will find a policing helpline number so that they may call us for further information during a stop. This help line is for police only, so please do not use this to contact us for general enquiries.

- **If You Feel Anxious, Breathe.**

Encounters with police officers can be stressful. If you feel anxious, breathing techniques can help reduce tension. Take a long, slow breath in through your nose, then exhale gently through your mouth. Focus on breathing, becoming aware of your breath slow and evenly. The officer has a duty of care for you – they will be mindful of making sure that you're OK. If you still feel anxious, explain to the officer that you're not used to dealing with the police, that you're happy to cooperate but you might need a minute to compose yourself.

email hello@cancard.co.uk
for access to legal support



If the Officer Decides to Take Action.

In the unlikely event that this officer missed the briefing and decides to take action, keep the above advice in mind; try to remain calm and engage with the officer. Ask them to call our help line to verify that your IRN number is legitimate. We will ask them for their badge number and explain that guidance has been issued which they can check internally. We will not give them any details beyond confirming you are registered.

If an police officer suspects that you may be involved in a more serious crime, they may decide to proceed with action to obtain evidence. In such circumstances it is probably, that they will operationally revert to procedure before Cancard was launched.

If an officer suspects that you have intent to supply or are involved in organised crime, they might issue you with an on-the-spot cannabis warning or arrest. It is important to digest the responsible medicating guide in order to prevent this action. It may be helpful if you have concerns about the interaction to explain to the officer that you have been deemed eligible for a medical private prescription.



It is not really likely, that a cannabis possession case alone will progress to court if you have shown your Cancard on the scene, but if this is the case, Cancard comes with resources for your solicitor and also an outline of a legal framework for defence. Log a search or encounter. You can choose to log your experiences with Cancard through the app. This will help us to iron out any inconsistencies that we may see in following the operational changes.



Helpful patient organisations

PLEA - pleacommunity.org.uk

'PLEA advocate for quality of life with medicinal cannabis, enabling patients to access their medicine free from the harms of stigmatisation, geographical inconsistencies and financial barriers. We support research into the safety and efficacy of cannabis-based medicinal products to enable evidence-based prescription for all.'

You can join the PLEA support group on Facebook.

Open Cannabis - www.opencannabis.uk/

Open Cannabis was established by Grow Pharma: an independent point of access to reliable Cannabis-Based Medicinal Products (CBMPs). Grow's vision is to unlock the medical potential of cannabis for those who need it, providing tools for the public and patients to understand the cannabis medicines.

system and connecting health care professionals with the information, products and support they need. This is a great resource for those considering a private prescription.

Volteface - volteface.me

Volteface is an advocacy organisation which seeks to reduce the harm drugs pose to individuals and society, through evidence-based policy and reform. They cultivate fresh thinking and new ideas through their policy reports, online magazine and an ongoing programme of private and public events. They work with an array of partners across civil society, business, media and government to foster public engagement and formulate new evidence-based policy ideas. Volteface are UK-based and focused whilst engaging with ideas and practice from across the world.



**We wish to thank representatives from
the following organisations for their support:**

National Police Chief's Council, The police federation,
The superintendents association, The police foundation,
LEAP UK, PLEA, Volteface, The green party, GroBiotec,
Conservative Party drug reform group, Labour party
drug reform group, Seedsman, Columbia Care, Blume,
Primary Care Cannabis Network, NHS, The CMC,
Global Cannabis Institute, Verassiti, Mackrell Solicitors,
Red Lion Chambers, Drugs expert witness network

cancard.co.uk
hello@cancard.co.uk

