

Cancard

Information for police officers

From November 2020 there will be approximately 30 thousand Cancard registered medicinal cannabis patients in the UK who legally qualify for a private prescription, but are unable to afford to purchase one. In the UK there are currently 1.1 million people who would be eligible to register so this number is likely to increase.

In order to help police identify these genuine medicinal consumers, an ID card project has been launched with the assistance of policing organisations and doctors. Cancard exists to assist front-line police officers when dealing with medicinal possession cases which do not fit into the scope for diversion or arrest, and where the officer may be considering the use of discretion. Cancard verifies genuine medical patients, so that you don't have to.

Fact sheet

- Private prescriptions currently cost upwards of £1500 per month.

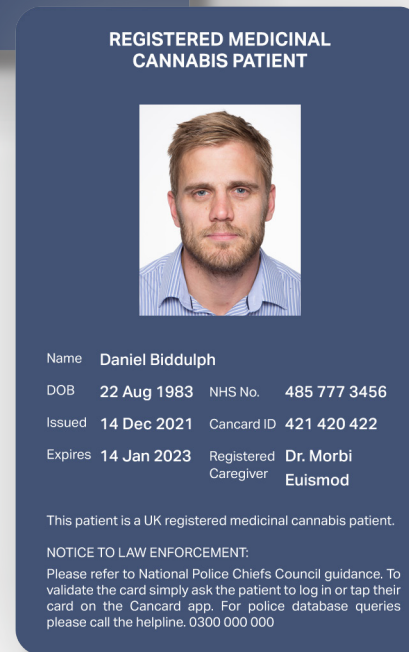
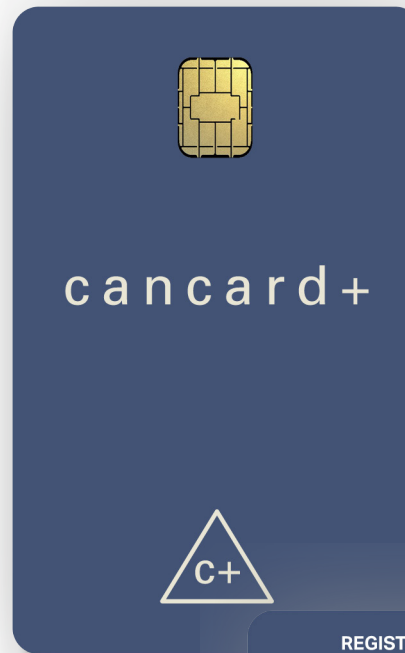
- Approximately 90 prescriptions are written daily for cannabis flower in the UK for those who can afford it.

- 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 place them in a position where they are in conflict with the law.

- In a recent poll 93% of patients (who are vulnerable and live with life long serious health conditions) said that they would like to not live in fear of the police simply for taking their medicine.

Cancard is a collaborative project. With thanks to:

DCC Jason Harwin - National Police Chiefs Council.
Simon Kempton - Police Federation.
t/DCI Jason Kew - Thames Valley police.
Rick Muir - Police Foundation.
PC Gary Carroll - drug expert witness.
PC Graham Walsh - drug expert Scotland.
Chief Superintendent Paul Griffiths - Police Superintendents Association.



1. Ask the patient to tap/log in to the Cancard app 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 policing help line 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 will operate 9am-9pm daily.

3. Use this information as part of your National Decision Model

- 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.

- Cancard patients have access to a unique helpline which will have all of their medical verification documents to support their eligibility for a private prescription.

- Patients will often prioritise their medicine over basic living expenses as it keeps their symptoms at bay. We would encourage you to be mindful of this when considering destruction over discretion.