What is medical marijuana?
Medical marijuana refers to treating a serious disease or its symptoms with the marijuana plant or its basic extracts while under a physician’s care.

What is the process for obtaining medical marijuana?
- Make an appointment for an examination with a physician licensed to practice in California.
- If your medical condition might benefit from marijuana, you may receive a written physician’s recommendation.
- With a written physician’s recommendation, you may grow, possess and consume approved amounts of medical marijuana.
- If needed, a designated caregiver may grow or transport on your behalf.
- A State of California Medical Marijuana Identification Card is voluntary but helps to verify authorization to grow or possess marijuana.
- You or your caregiver may apply for a State of California Medical Marijuana Identification Card at:
  Ventura County Public Health – EMS
  2220 E. Gonzales Rd., #200, Oxnard
  Telephone: (805) 981-5323
  Appointments are required.
- For information on sources of medical marijuana, ask your physician for a medical marijuana referral or search online in your zip code using key words such as medicinal marijuana, medical cannabis or marijuana caregiver.

Things to know about medical marijuana
- All marijuana is not the same: intensity and methods of use vary.
- Medical marijuana should be used carefully and as directed by a physician: start low and go slow.
- Spice, K2 and other synthetics are illegal, dangerous and are not marijuana.
- Keep medical marijuana and all medicines secure and out of the reach of children.
- Cardholders and those with physician’s recommendations are responsible for observing state and local laws relevant to medical marijuana use.
- Like all medication, medical marijuana should not be shared.

For more information
- Ventura County Public Health MMIC Program
  vchca.org/ems/medical-marijuana-identification
- California Medical Marijuana Program Frequently Asked Questions
  cdph.ca.gov/programs/MMP/Pages/MMPFAQ.aspx
- Ventura County Behavioral Health, Alcohol & Drug Programs
  venturacountylimits.org/mj

RISKS AND LIMITS
- Marijuana is unsafe for children and teenagers. Learning and memory can be permanently affected.
- Driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal, unsafe and can lead to a DUI arrest.
- Impairment and likelihood of collision increase when used in combination with alcohol, prescription or over-the-counter medication, or other drugs.
- Marijuana may cause short- and long-term as well as permanent side effects.
- Pregnant women should avoid consuming marijuana.
- Marijuana could worsen mental health symptoms associated with depression, psychosis, or schizophrenia.
- While the California Compassionate Use Act permits use of medical marijuana, it is illegal for use under Federal law.