

Utah Medical Cannabis Program Basics

May 19, 2022

Presentation to Ogden Surgical Medical Society

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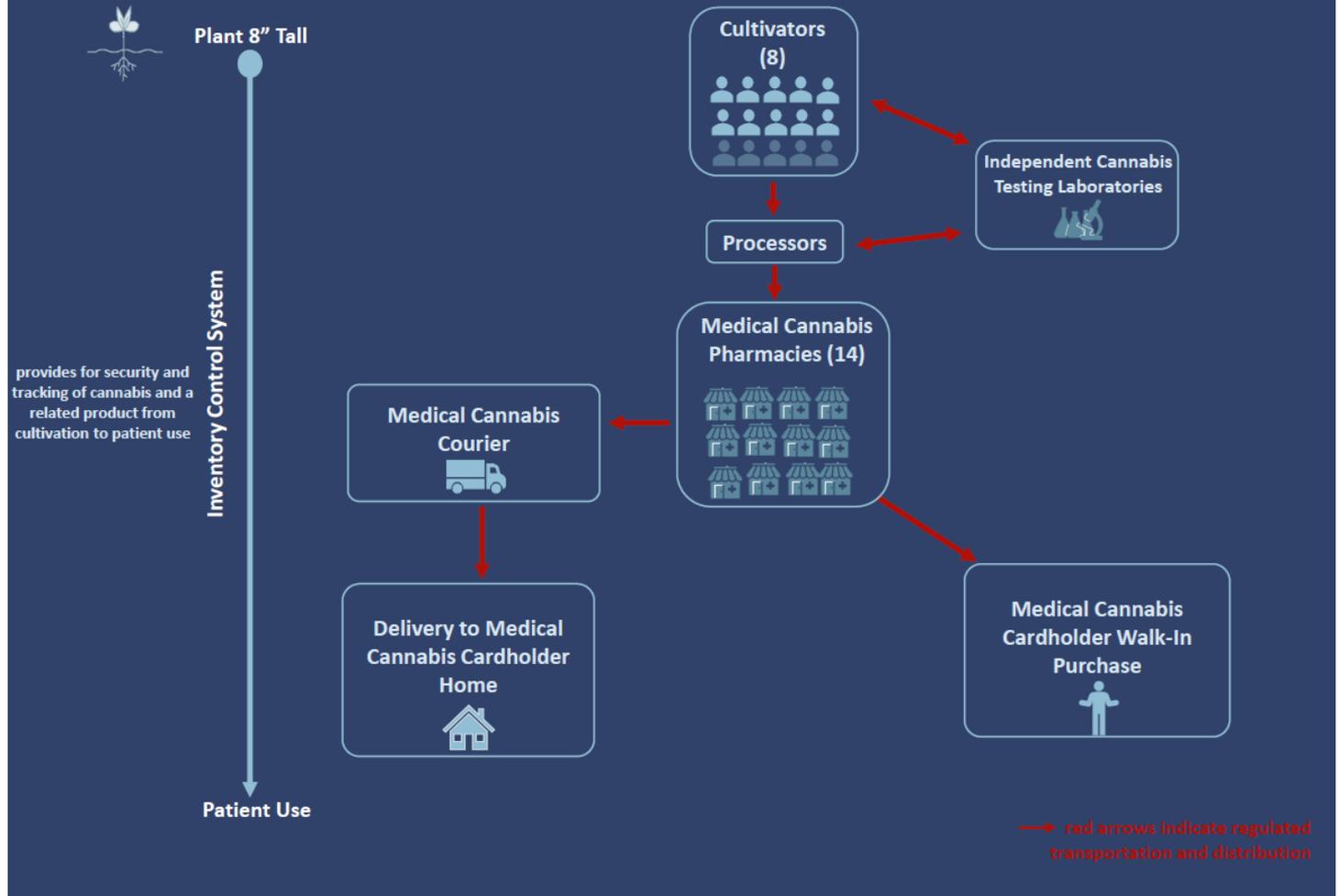
Utah Department of Health and Human Services

Program Purpose

Working with trained medical professionals, qualified patients receive access to safe and effective cannabis products that help them live healthy lives.

Medical Cannabis Distribution System

Revised to reflect changes under Medical Cannabis Amendments Bill passed on September 16, 2019



- Pain - lasting longer than two weeks and that is not adequately managed despite treatment attempts using conventional medications (other than opioids or opiates) or physical interventions
- HIV or AIDS
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Cancer
- Cachexia

Qualifying Conditions



- Persistent nausea under certain conditions
- Crohn's Disease / Ulcerative Colitis
- Epilepsy / debilitating seizures
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or persistent muscle spasms
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which is treated by a licensed mental health therapist and has been diagnosed by either the VA or through an evaluation by a doctoral level psychiatrist, psychologist, LCSW, or APRN

Qualifying Conditions



- Autism (Note: numerous studies have shown that cannabis does not directly treat autism, but may be helpful in treating associated symptoms)
- Terminal illness with less than 6 months to live
- A condition resulting in the patient receiving hospice care
- A rare condition or disease that affects less than one in 200,000 individuals in the US and is not adequately managed by a non-opioid or physical intervention

Qualifying Conditions



Non-Qualifying Conditions

- Individuals who do not have a “qualifying condition” may submit a petition, with help from their QMP, to the Compassionate Use Board (CUB) for review.
- All patients under age 21, regardless of their medical condition, must have their application approved by the CUB.

- Utah licensed MD, DO, PA, APRN or podiatrist with a controlled substances license
- Two Options: LMP (limited medical provider, or QMP (qualified medical provider)
- LMP may only treat their own patients with a maximum of 15
- Note: for LMPs, no CE requirement and no DHHS registration requirement

Requirements to be a Recommending Provider



Utah Code 26-61a-106

QMP Registration Requirements



Utah Code 26-61a-106

- Utah licensed MD, DO, PA, APRN or DPM with a controlled substances license
- Complete at least 4 hours of “DHHS approved” education in medical cannabis during every two-year renewal cycle
- Must register with the EVS
- \$100 registration fee

QMP Recommendation Limits



Utah Code 26-61a-106

- Maximum number of medical cannabis patients allowed/provider - 275
- But, certain specialties - 600
 - Specialties: anesthesiology, gastroenterology, neurology, oncology, pain management, hospice and palliative medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation, rheumatology, psychiatry

When recommending medical cannabis, a QMP must:

- Have an initial in-person appointment when they meet with the patient face to face.
- Make a recommending in the setting of a provider-patient relationship.
- Consider the recommendation in light of any substance use or opioid use disorder history and history of medical cannabis and controlled substance use. If a patient has purchased medical cannabis in the past in Utah, the QMP can may review the purchase history in the EVS.
- Check prescription records in the Utah controlled substance database (CSD) for any contraindications.
- Document in a patient's record a thorough assessment of their condition: pertinent medical history, pertinent examination findings, current medication list, studies supporting the diagnosis, and other "standard" treatments that have been tried. This information may or may not be submitted by a QMP to the Electronic Verification System (EVS) where a PMP could review it.

Requirements for Recommending Medical Cannabis to a Patient



Medical Cannabis Card Issuance Period



- An initial card is valid for a 6-month period unless the provider specifies a shorter amount of time. Subsequent card renewals are every six months.
- Once a card is issued for one year, the recommending medical provider may specify approval for a one-year renewal cycle.
- Renewal visits may be done virtually without a face-to-face visit with the provider.
- A recommending provider (LMP or QMP) may renew the card of a patient who was initially approved by another provider as long as this patient's renewal is within the allowable patient limits for the new recommending provider.

- If QMP does not specify dosage type and/or amount, this will be determined by the pharmacy medical provider (PMP) at the medical cannabis pharmacy.

Note: a PMP may either be a physician or a pharmacist who has completed the required training and registered with the DHHS and EVS.

- The PMP must review all medical information in the EVS and determine a dosage type and amount and explain potential adverse reactions.

Requirements for Recommending Medical Cannabis to a Patient



Legal Dosage Form	Legal Dosage Form Examples	Legal Routes of Administration
Tablet	Tablet	Oral
Capsule	Capsule	Oral
Gelatinous cube	Gummy, chews, gelatin cube, lozenge	Oral
Unprocessed flower (60 days)	Flower, Bud	Vaporization
Wax	Wax	Vaporization
Resin	Resin	Vaporization
Liquid suspension	Liquid suspension	Oral
Concentrated oil or viscous oil	Vape cartridge	Vaporization
Transdermal preparation	Skin patch	Transdermal
Sublingual preparation	Extract, Tincture	Sublingual
Topical preparation	Salve, balm, lotion, cream	Topical

Medicinal Dosage Forms

Medicinal Dosage Forms

- When transported in public, unprocessed cannabis flower must be contained within an opaque bag or box.
- Smoking is not a legal route of administration of cannabis in Utah. It is illegal in Utah to smoke or combust cannabis or to use a device to facilitate the smoking or combustion of cannabis. This includes the process of vaporizing and inhaling cannabis by placing the cannabis on a nail or other metal object that is heated by a flame, including a blowtorch.
- Vaporization or heating of medical cannabis without a flame is legal in Utah. See Utah Code 58-37-3.9 (3).

- Inhalation: **onset** seconds to minutes, peak blood level in 30 minutes, **duration** 2- 4 hours.
- Sublingual/oromucosal: **onset** 15 – 45 minutes, **duration** 90 minutes to several hours.
- Oral/edible: **onset** 1 – 3 hours, **duration** 6 – 8 hours
- (Note: risk with oral administration is that patient will not wait enough time to feel effect of dosage and may repeat doses resulting in excessive medication.)
- Topical: variable onset and variable duration.

Timing of Various Dosage Forms

Dispensing/ Possession Limitations



Approximately 113 grams (4oz) of unprocessed cannabis flower

A medical cannabis cardholder in any one 28-day period, may purchase no more than the lesser of:

- An amount sufficient to provide 30 days of treatment based upon the dosing guidelines recommended, or
 - 113 grams by weight of unprocessed cannabis; or
 - an amount of cannabis product that contains 20 grams of composite THC.

- Meets monthly
- Comprised of 7 physicians from a variety of specialties including pediatrics, pain management, palliative care and psychiatry
- Reviews and recommends to the DHHS approval of petitions to the CUB submitted by:
 - patients under age 21 applying for medical cannabis cards; and
 - any patient who does not have a qualifying condition but who has an intractable condition that:
 - substantially impairs the individual's quality of life; and
 - has not, in the qualified medical provider's professional opinion, adequately responded to conventional treatments.

Compassionate Use Board (CUB)

- Meets monthly
- Comprised of 4 physicians and 3 medical research professionals
- Reviews scientific evidence related to cannabis use with a focus on:
 - medical conditions that respond to cannabis;
 - cannabis dosage amounts and dosage forms;
 - interaction of cannabis with other treatments; and
 - contraindications, adverse reactions, and potential side effects.
- CRRB findings are posted online

Cannabis Research Review Board (CRRB)

PETITION FOR COMPASSIONATE USE BOARD REVIEW



This form must be completed by the applicant's qualified medical provider (QMP) and uploaded to the Electronic Verification System (EVS). Information requested in this form is required under Utah Code 26-61a-105 (5)(a)(ii). A QMP may upload to the EVS other relevant information in addition to this form. For assistance with completing this form, please contact the Department at cubcmc@utah.gov or (801) 538-6504.

1. GENERAL PATIENT INFORMATION	
a. Patient Full Name:	
b. Date of Birth and Age:	
c. Gender:	
d. Qualified Medical Provider: (Name, License Type, Specialty)	
e. Date of Last Face to Face visit: (Must have at 1 with QMP)	
f. Number of visits with the patient	How many times have you met with the patient? _____
g. Past history with cannabis	

<https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/compassionate-use-board/>

Compassionate Use Board (CUB)

Name	Location	Name	Location
Perfect Earth	North Logan	Deseret Wellness	Park City
Beehive Farmacy	Brigham City	Curaleaf	Lehi
Perfect Earth	South Ogden	Deseret Wellness	Provo
WholesomeCo	West Bountiful	Cannabist	Springville
Dragonfly Wellness	Salt Lake City	Pure UT	Payson
Beehive Farmacy	Salt Lake City	Zion Medicinal	Cedar City
Bloc Pharmacy	South Jordan	Bloc Pharmacy	St. George

14 Medical Cannabis Pharmacies

Medical Cannabis Pharmacies



For complete information about medical cannabis pharmacy requirements, see Utah Code 26-61a-301.

- Must have a licensed a PMP (pharmacist) onsite during business hours to consult with patients and to review every product transaction.
- May only sell cannabis products, medical cannabis devices, and/or education material related to medicinal use of cannabis.
- Employees must be registered as a PMP or a pharmacy agent with DHHS to work. Must pass federal criminal background checks.

Medical Cannabis Pharmacies



**For complete information about medical
cannabis pharmacy requirements, see Utah
Code 26-61a-301.**

- Outside signage limited to a green cross, name of pharmacy, pharmacy logo, and hours of operation
- May advertise to the public in any medium but cannot advertise specific products or dosage types to the public.
- With consent from an adult, the pharmacy may contact an adult directly to market specific products and dosing types.

Medical Cannabis Pharmacies



For complete information about medical
cannabis pharmacy requirements, see Utah
Code 26-61a-301.

- Be equipped with a security system
- Onsite cannabis use is NOT allowed
- Cannot offer samples
- Must follow product labeling requirements
- Some accept electronic payments
- May have a product disposal program
- DHHS performs regular inspections of medical cannabis pharmacy locations

- Medical cannabis product transaction and medical cannabis card information will be incorporated into the Utah Controlled Substance Database.
- A 15th medical cannabis pharmacy will be licensed in Price, UT in 2022. Acute pain will be added as a qualifying condition.
- Aerosol products such as an inhaler will added as a legal dosage form.
- Every hospice program in Utah must have at least one QMP.
- U of U School of Medicine must ensure that physicians who oversee fellowship training to specialize in pain treatment are QMPs.

Upcoming Changes

Questions?

Utah Department of Health and Human Services
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