



# January 2023 monthly update

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## Program updates

### Happy new year from the DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis!

We are grateful for all stakeholders participating in the Utah medical cannabis program.

- **Check out some of the noteworthy program statistics and accomplishments from 2022:**
  - The total number of medical cannabis cardholders increased by 45% from 42,646 in January to 61,991 in December.
  - The total number of QMPs increased by 6% from 845 in January to 895 in December.
  - Medical cannabis pharmacies made 15,107 home deliveries to patients living in rural counties throughout Utah. This is a 462% increase from the 2,688 rural home deliveries made in 2021.
  - In January 2022, the limited medical provider (LMP) program launched. Throughout the year, LMPs submitted 365 card applications and 145 card renewals.
  - In January 2022, the medical cannabis visit cost website launched. By the end of the year, the average number of visits to the site had increased by 97% from 316 during the first half of the year to 623 during the second half of the year.
  - In July 2022, electronic verification system (EVS) applications for new registrations and renewals for patients 21 years and older with a qualifying condition started activating once the application was completed and the \$15 fee was paid.
  - In August 2022, medical cannabis card information became available for medical providers to review in the Utah Controlled Substance Database (CSD).
  - At the end of 2022, a 15th medical cannabis pharmacy opened in Price.

**We are looking forward to continuing the program with you in 2023!**



## Monthly update newsletter survey

**We want to hear from you!** We are gathering feedback about the monthly update newsletters and would like your input.

- Providing feedback will help us evaluate the monthly update newsletters and determine changes that can be made to make them more helpful to you.
- **Take 5 minutes to complete the anonymous survey at <https://forms.gle/T5fuStDLBywqrtiL8>**
- The survey will close on January 31, 2023.



## Medical cannabis market analysis survey

**Thank you for taking the medical cannabis market analysis survey in December!**

- We are currently analyzing the survey results.
- More information about the market analysis will be shared later with stakeholders.

## External medical cannabis research review requests

The Cannabis Research Review Board (CRRB) and the DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis want to create an inclusive medical cannabis program and an educated community by continuing to consider research studies submitted by the industry and the public.

- **We are inviting you and other stakeholders in the medical cannabis community to submit studies for review and consideration.** The industry and public are welcome to submit studies published inside and outside the United States for review by the DHHS and CRRB. The DHHS will evaluate the validity of the scientific findings of each study submitted based on the rigor of the study design, the risk of bias, and relevance.
- **To submit a study for review, fill out this form:**  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFGxgXsVs6eXV7L1tv-pUj3HomK8aVGEcb77E\\_01gKzgTxUQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFGxgXsVs6eXV7L1tv-pUj3HomK8aVGEcb77E_01gKzgTxUQ/viewform)
- If the study meets the scientific rigor required by state statute, then it will be shared with the CRRB.
- To review the state statute about scientific studies, visit  
[https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title26/Chapter61/26-61-S202.html?v=C26-61-S202\\_2022050420220504](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title26/Chapter61/26-61-S202.html?v=C26-61-S202_2022050420220504)

## Utah Subsidy Program from Utah Patients Coalition

You may qualify for financial help to pay for medical cannabis. The Utah Patients Coalition has a Utah Subsidy Program that assists with many costs associated with medical cannabis.

- This program can subsidize the following costs:
  - Medical consultations and doctor visits.
  - Medical cannabis products and devices.
  - DHHS electronic verification system (EVS) fees.
  - Cannabis home delivery costs.
- In order to qualify, you must provide:
  - Proof of Utah residency.
  - Proof of financial eligibility.
  - Proof of a qualifying medical condition for medical cannabis.
  - Proof of registration or intent to register as a cardholder with the DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis.
- **Learn more about the Utah Subsidy Program at <https://utahpatients.org/upsp/>.**



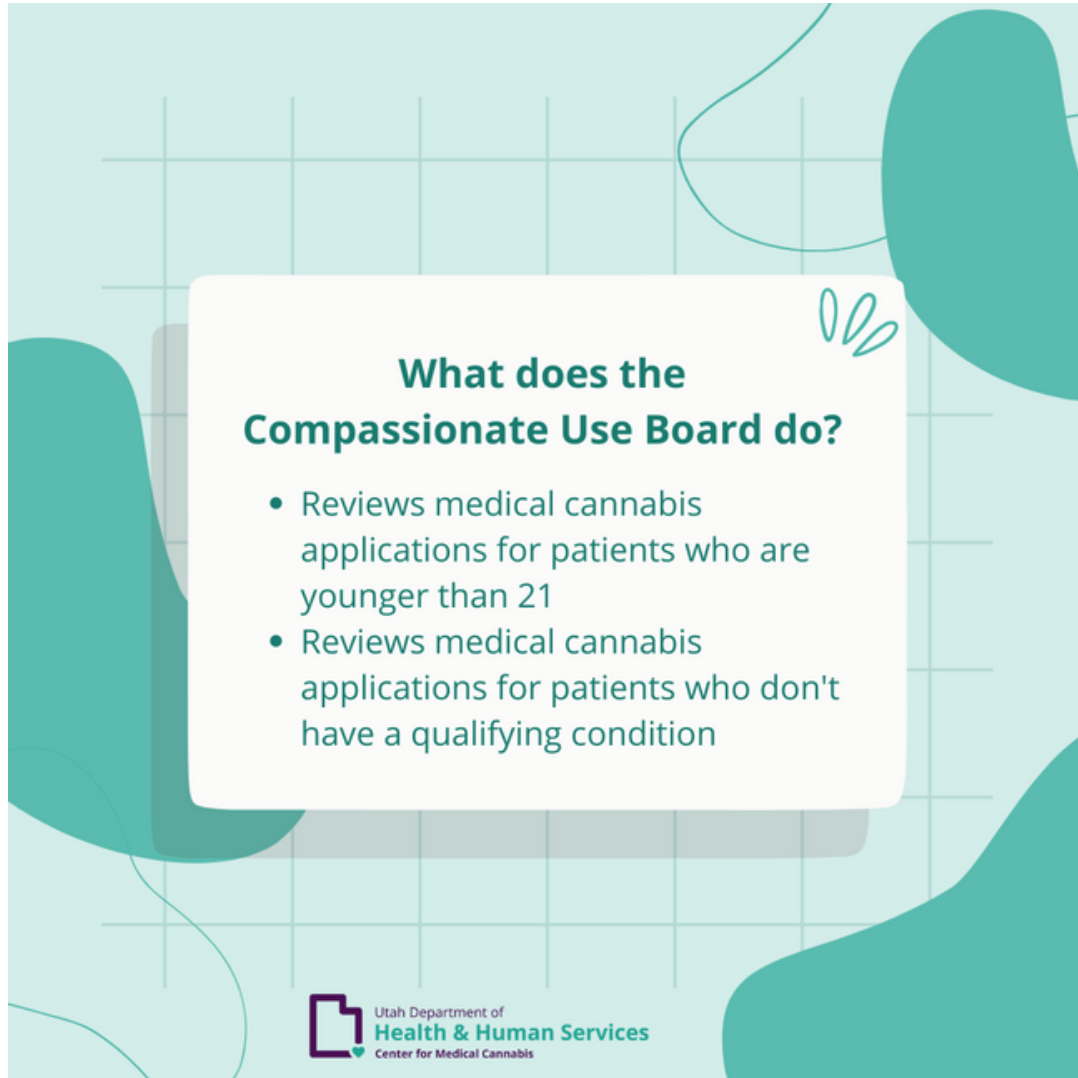
A person with a white coat and stethoscope holding a cannabis leaf in one hand and a tincture in the other

## Utah Medical Cannabis Visit Cost website

Medical cannabis patients should be able to know the cost of their medical visits and have the opportunity to find the right care at a reasonable price. The Medical Cannabis Visit Cost website (<https://healthcost.utah.gov/cannabis.php>) helps patients compare prices charged by qualified medical providers (QMPs) for initial and renewal medical cannabis evaluation visits. Here's what you need to know about the site:

- QMPs and medical clinics are required to report their fees if they represent online or in printed materials that they offer medical cannabis evaluations.
- The fees posted are estimates, and patients who use insurance should always contact the clinic to confirm what their out-of-pocket costs will be.
- **Are there incorrect prices listed? If you notice a price posted on the website is significantly different than the price actually charged by a clinic, you can submit a complaint at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18WADX-E3jNfs\\_xA9x8Hvz7VybeFbu4rhfjLlJ83III/viewform?ts=61aa7458&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18WADX-E3jNfs_xA9x8Hvz7VybeFbu4rhfjLlJ83III/viewform?ts=61aa7458&edit_requested=true).**
- You'll need to provide the name of the QMP who you met and the name and address of the clinic where you met with them.

# Medical cannabis education



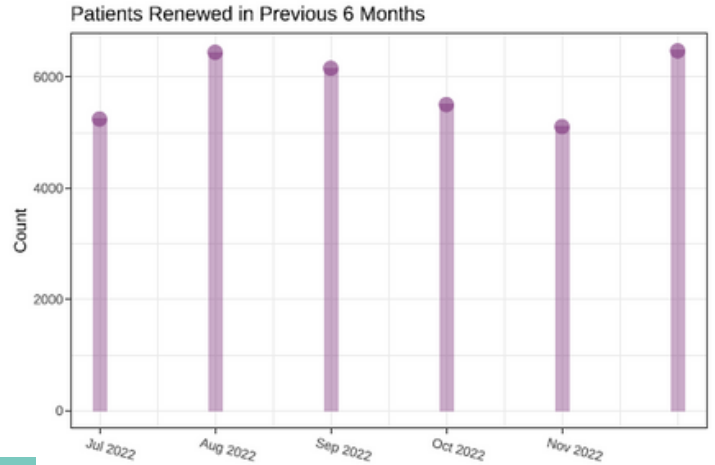
Let's hear it for the Compassionate Use Board! The Compassionate Use Board is an important part of medical cannabis program in Utah. They review applications for patients who normally wouldn't qualify to use medical cannabis, but may still benefit from it--like patients who are younger than 21 or patients who don't have a qualifying condition but haven't found a treatment that works for them. These patients can ask their qualified medical provider to send an application to the Board that includes information about why they would benefit from using medical cannabis and the other treatments they've tried. After reviewing the applications, the Board decides if the patient should be given a medical cannabis card. In 2022, the Board approved 84% of the applications they received. To learn more, visit [medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/compassionate-use-board/](https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/compassionate-use-board/).

# Research and data

## DHHS data reporting

In December:

- The number of active medical cannabis cardholders increased by 0.9% from 60,477 patients in November to 61,991 patients in December.
- Patient renewals for December were the highest they've been since August, at just fewer than 7,000.



Review our data reports at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/reporting/>

## Compassionate Use Board data reporting

In quarter 4 of 2022:

number of patients with first EVS event of 'awaiting cub review'	67
number of REDCap petitions received from QMPs	56
number of Board approvals	26
number of Board denials	0
number of 'need more information' requests sent to QMPs	44*

\*this includes EVS event and REDCap petition data received in previous quarters

For more information about the Compassionate Use Board, email [CUBCMC@utah.gov](mailto:CUBCMC@utah.gov), or visit <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/compassionate-use-board/>

## UDAF data reporting

In December:

- All cultivation licenses were renewed for 2023.
- 2 new tier-1 processors will be approved in Salt Lake County in the next few months.



A gloved hand holding cannabis leaves

## Public notices

### New medical cannabis administrative rules

On December 27, 2022, new administrative rules were implemented for medical cannabis. These rules primarily affect the medical cannabis industry, like medical cannabis pharmacies.

- **Copies of the rules are available at**  
<https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/utah-medical-cannabis-law/>

### 2023 Utah State General Legislative Session

State lawmakers will be considering amendments to medical cannabis laws during the upcoming legislative session. The session starts on January 17, 2023 and ends March 3, 2023.

### Cannabis Research Review Board (CRRB) meetings

The CRRB reviews cannabis research and provides recommendations to the Utah State Legislature and DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis about cannabis use, medical conditions that respond to cannabis, medical cannabis products, and medical cannabis dosages.

- The next CRRB meeting is:
  - February 14, 2022 at 9:00am MT via online conference
  - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83222618793> Meeting ID: 832 2261 8793
- To review information about past meetings, please review the Utah Public Meeting Notice website at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>.

**Cannabis Research Review Board meetings and recordings are available at**  
<https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/cannabinoid-product-board/>.

### Dragonfly medical cannabis pharmacy open in Price

Dragonfly Wellness' medical cannabis pharmacy in Price is officially open.

- The grand opening is on Friday, January 13th at 11:00 a.m.
- Learn more about the pharmacy, including its address, hours, and home-delivery options at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/pharmacies/>.

**Sign up for future updates from the DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis at**  
<https://forms.gle/dig5eJZ37qygx9oY9>