



July 2022 monthly update

Program updates

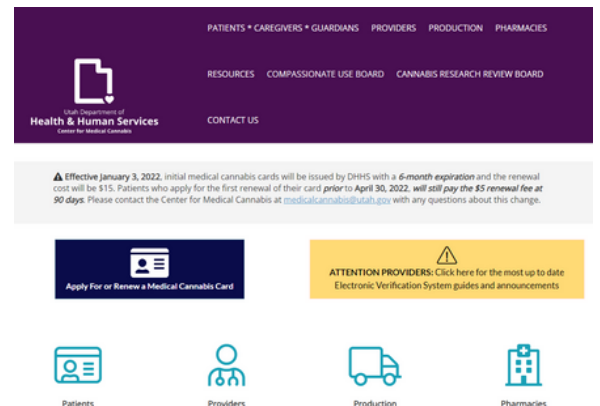
Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) merger

- The Utah Department of Health and the Utah Department of Human Services merged to become the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) officially on July 1, 2022.
 - All legal documents now reflect this change.
- This was prompted by the passing of H.B. 365 State Agency Realignment during the 2022 General Legislative Session.
- Go [here](#) to learn more about the merging of these two departments.

DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis website

- The DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis website has been updated with a new design and improved navigation.

Check out the DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis website [here](#).



The State of Utah Medical Cannabis Visit Cost website

- [The Medical Cannabis Visit Cost website](#) was recently updated.
- This website allows patients to compare prices charged by qualified medical providers (QMPs) for initial and renewal medical cannabis evaluation visits.
- Only QMPs and medical clinics who represent online or in printed material that they offer medical cannabis evaluations are required to report their fees.
- The fees posted are estimates, and patients who use insurance should always contact the clinic to confirm what their out of pocket will be.
- If an individual notices a price posted on the website is significantly different than the price actually charged by a clinic, please submit a DHHS Medical Cannabis Complaint Form using the name of the QMP with whom you met.

Utah Subsidy Program by the Utah Patients Coalition

- The Utah Patients Coalition has a Utah Subsidy Program that assists Utah medical cannabis patients with 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 Patients Coalition's Utah Subsidy Program [here](#).

Electronic Verification System (EVS) updates

- EVS will be updated on July 16, 2022.
- EVS will be unavailable from approximately 5:00 am to 8:00 am while these updates are finalized.
- Guides with walkthroughs of the updates for medical providers/proxies and pharmacy staff are available [here](#).
- Two webinars for medical providers are available to show the updates and answer any questions:
 - **Thursday, July 21 · 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.**
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fhx-vdsi-ktc>
Or dial: (US) +1 470-485-9441 PIN: 210 575 647#
 - **Tuesday, July 26 · 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.**
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fgf-vfvg-mys>
Or dial: (US) +1 402-543-0191 PIN: 699 841 217#



QMP cost survey

- If you are a QMP who advertises medical cannabis recommendation services, you are required by Utah Code 26-61a-106 (10) to report the costs of medical cannabis recommendation appointments.
- If you are a QMP who does not advertise medical cannabis recommendation services, taking this survey is optional.
- A QMP may complete [this survey](#) to report these costs.
- Information from this survey will be posted on the [State of Utah Center for Medical Cannabis Medical Cannabis Visit Cost website](#).

Cannabis Research and Review Board (CRRB) leadership updates

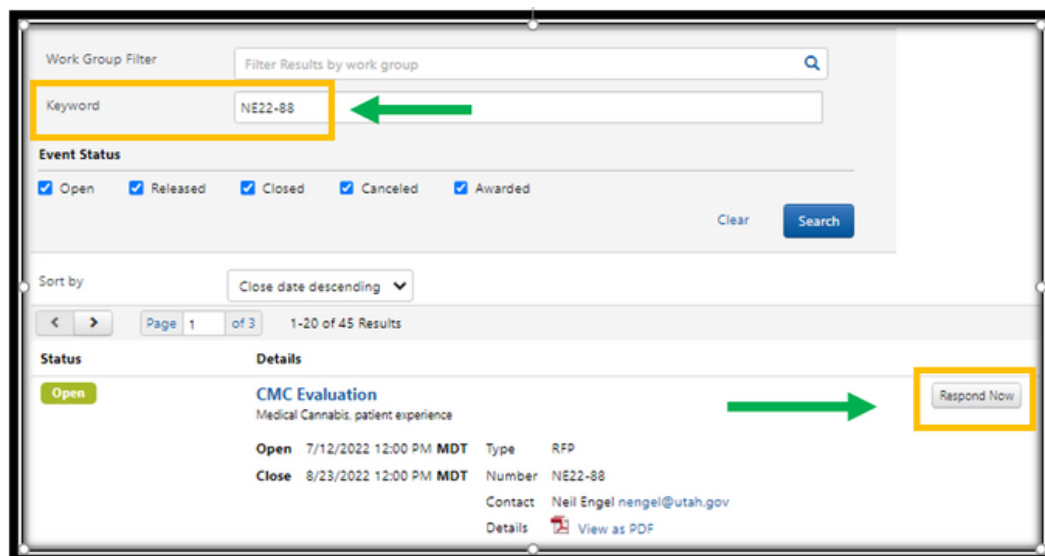
- At the last CRRB meeting, nominations to update the board chair, board vice chair, and immediate past chair were approved.
 - Dr. Katherine Carlson is the Board Chair.
 - Dr. Matt McIff is the Board Vice Chair.
 - Dr. Perry Fine is the Immediate Past Chair.
- Congratulations to Dr. Carlson, Dr. McIff, and Dr. Fine!

Don't forget about the Limited Medical Provider (LMP) program

- The DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis has the LMP program, where Utah-licensed MDs, DOs, APRNs, PAs, and DPMs with a license to prescribe a controlled substance can provide medical cannabis recommendations for up to 15 qualifying patients who are age 21 or older.
- For more information about the LMP program, click [here](#).

DHHS accepting proposals from researchers to conduct a medical cannabis program and cannabis patient study

- The Division of Purchasing has posted the application for Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure the funds to be awarded to one applicant. DHHS will accept proposals between **July 12, 2022, and August 23, 2022**.
- Interested academic research groups may apply at the link below, search for the keyword **'NE22-88'** and select the 'Respond Now' button.
- <https://bids.scquest.com/apps/Router/PublicEvent?CustomerOrg=StateOfUtah>



Research and data

Data reporting

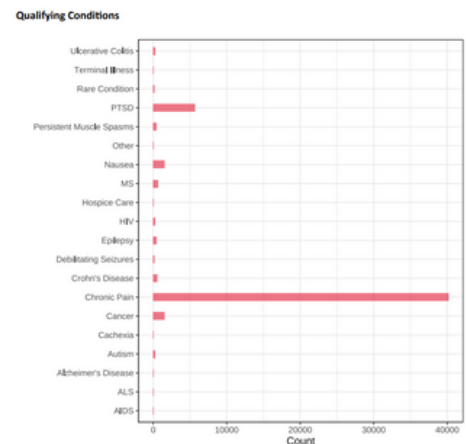
You can review the full July 2022 data report [here](#).

Patients with medical cannabis recommendations

- Between May and June 2022, the total number of patients with a medical cannabis card recommendation increased by 3%.
- As of June 30, 2022, 54,352 patients had an active medical cannabis card.

Qualifying conditions for medical cannabis

- The most common qualifying conditions for a medical cannabis card in Utah are pain, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and cancer.

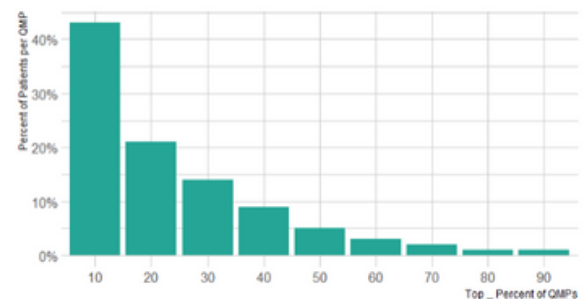


QMP recommendation data from March 2020 to April 2022

- QMPs connected to the top 10 highest volume recommendation clinics provide an estimated 41% of all medical cannabis recommendations.
- QMPs connected to the top 5 highest volume recommendation clinics provide an estimated 36% of all medical cannabis recommendations.

Quartiles of QMPs and recommendations from March 2020 to April 2022

- The top 10% of active QMPs who are responsible for the highest volume provide recommendations to 43% of all patients.
- The top 20% of active QMPs who are responsible for the highest volume provide recommendations to 64% of all patients.
- The top 30% of active QMPs who are responsible for the highest volume provide recommendations to 78% of all patients.



Public Notices

Medical cannabis pharmacy opening in rural Utah

- A new medical cannabis pharmacy is opening in Price in Fall 2022.
- More information about the opening of this pharmacy will be provided at a later date.

Cannabis Research and Review Board Meetings

- The Cannabis Research Review Board (CRRB) will meet on August 9, 2022, at 9 a.m. MT via online conference.
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83222618793> Meeting ID: 832 2261 8793
- To review information about the last meeting on July 12, please review the Utah Public Meeting Notice website [here](#).

Cannabis Research Review Board meetings and recordings are available [here](#).

Utah Legislature Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group

- This group is composed of lawmakers who are making recommendations about the possibility of merging medical cannabis oversight responsibility under one single agency.
- Meetings for the workgroup are public, and can be attended by the public either in-person or virtually.
- For more information about workgroup meetings and to receive notifications and handouts about this workgroup, go [here](#).

Utah Attorney General signs letter urging congress to take action against THC lookalike products

- On June 22, 2022, the Utah Attorney General joined 22 other state attorneys general in signing a letter urging congress to take action against THC edibles that look similar to popular snack foods, like Sour Patch Kids, Oreos, Doritos, etc.
- Concerns about these products include that they may be marketed to children and/or accidentally consumed by children.
- It is dangerous for children to consume THC unless they have a specific medical condition that is being treated using medical cannabis with THC.
- These products are not coming from the legal and regulated state-cannabis programs, but are instead coming from the unregulated hemp-derived products market.

[Sign up](#) for future updates from the Center for Medical Cannabis