



September 2022 monthly update

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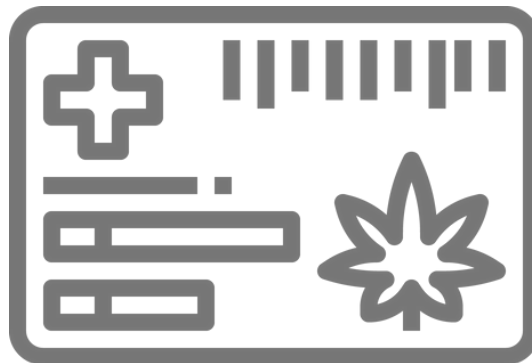
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Program updates

Active conditional status on medical cannabis cards

New patient cards are now activated automatically after the payment is processed. These initial cards are assigned the active conditional status.

- Active conditional status will last up to 60 days, and then the card will transition to active status.
- Active conditional status cards may be subject to random or targeted review.
- If any additional information is needed during a review, DHHS will request it from the patient or their recommending medical provider.
- Patients in active status and active conditional status may purchase medical cannabis at medical cannabis pharmacies.
- Please note that patients who are younger than 21 years and patients who do not have a qualifying condition and require review from the Compassionate Use Board (CUB) are not eligible for an active conditional status card.



Cannabis public education materials

We want to make sure that medical cannabis patients have information about using cannabis safely. To meet this goal, we created the following education materials: These new education materials include the following topics:

- Cannabis use during pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Health effects of cannabis
- Safe storage of medical cannabis

Take a look at these education materials at

<https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/provider-resources/resources-library/>

More education materials will continue to be created and posted on the website in the future.

Concerns of phytol in cannabis and hemp products

Many patients have been concerned about additives in their vape cartridges and the potential negative side effects that may occur from these additives. One specific additive of concern is the ingredient phytol. **The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) has found no evidence of phytol in medical cannabis and hemp products to date.**

Patients deserve to feel safe when purchasing medical cannabis and hemp products. Even though UDAF thoroughly tests these products to make sure they are safe, there are still steps you can take as a patient to purchase safe products:

- **Do not purchase cannabis from the black market.** The state of Utah has an in-depth testing process to make sure that all products being sold at licensed medical cannabis pharmacies don't have additives that studies indicate could be harmful to patients. Buying vape cartridges from the black market is risky because there is no way to know what is actually in the vape cartridge. Studies on testing vape cartridges sold on the black market found that the cartridges can be diluted with harmful substances like laundry detergent, synthetic cannabinoids, or THC oil.
- **Read the ingredient disclosure on the vape cartridge.** If the disclosure has vague language about "natural" or artificial ingredients or added terpenes, that may be a sign that phytol or other potentially harmful additives are in the cartridge.
- **Ask the manufacturer if they use additives in their products and if they have safety data about their ingredients.**



A person refilling a vaping device

Marijuana and hallucinogen use among young adults reached an all-time high in 2021

A study by the National Institute of Health (NIH) found that in 2021, young adults aged 19-30 years reported using more marijuana and hallucinogens than ever before.

- The percentage of young adults who reported using marijuana in the past year increased by ~30% when compared to marijuana use 10 and 20 years ago.
- More than 1 in 10 young adults said they use marijuana every day.
- The percentage of young adults who reported using hallucinogens in the past year increased by ~4% when compared to hallucinogen use in 2011 and 2016.
- This data is concerning because marijuana and hallucinogens affect developing brains in teenagers and young adults, which may lead to long-term negative health outcomes.
- The new release from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/marijuana-hallucinogen-use-among-young-adults-reached-all-time-high-2021>
- **For more information on cannabis use in teenagers and how to talk to teenagers about cannabis use, visit the Gray Matters Utah website at <https://graymattersutah.org/>**

DHHS market analysis input meeting

We held a medical cannabis market analysis meeting on September 1st. Information on the medical cannabis market analysis was shared with stakeholders and the public. Public comments and feedback about the analysis were also heard.

- The annual market analysis is to be used by DHHS and UDAF to determine if additional cannabis pharmacy licenses are needed in Utah.
- The market analysis has not been completed yet, but will begin soon. The public meeting was considered a kick-off meeting to gather input before beginning the analysis.
- Factors being considered to determine if more licenses are needed include:
 - High potential for patient and medical cannabis growth in the economic regions of Utah.
 - Economic region access to medical cannabis home delivery.
 - Commuting patterns in each economic region.
 - The distance between homes and medical cannabis pharmacies in each economic region.
 - Evidence of inadequate medical cannabis supply, quality, or variety in each economic region.
- A copy of the recorded meeting and meeting minutes will be posted by September 30th on the Utah Public Notice website at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/776207.html>
- **Written comments are being accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 16th. To submit a comment, email medicalcannabis@utah.gov with the subject line "Medical Cannabis Market Analysis Input" or mail you comments to:**

**Attn: Medical Cannabis
195 N, 1950 W
SLC, UT, 84116**

The state of 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 for them at a reasonable price. That's why we recently updated the the Medical Cannabis Visit Cost website at <https://healthcost.utah.gov/cannabis.php>, where patients may 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:

- 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.
- **Are there incorrect prices listed?** If a patient 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 at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18WADX-E3jNfs_xA9x8Hvz7VybeFbu4rhfjLJ83III/viewform?ts=61aa7458&edit_requested=true using the name of the QMP with whom you met and the name and address of the clinic where you met with them.

Utah Subsidy Program by the Utah Patients Coalition

Medical cannabis patients have help available if they are experiencing difficulties paying 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 Patients Coalition's Utah Subsidy Program at <https://utahpatients.org/upsp/>.**

QMP cost survey

QMPs who advertise medical cannabis recommendation services are required by Utah Code 26-61a-106 (10) to report the costs of medical cannabis recommendation appointments.

- **Please complete the survey at <https://pubredcap.health.utah.gov/surveys/?s=FHJ3ACYEAJMAA3YA> to report these costs.**
- Information from this survey will be posted on the Medical Cannabis Visit Cost website at <https://healthcost.utah.gov/cannabis.php>.
- Taking the survey is optional for QMPs who do not advertise medical cannabis recommendation services.

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

Healthcare providers don't have to become QMPs to recommend medical cannabis for their patients. The LMP program was created to improve access of cannabis-recommending providers for patients.

- To use the LMP program, a medical provider must be a Utah-licensed MD, DO, APRN, PA, or DPM with a license to prescribe a controlled substance.
- LMPs may provide medical cannabis recommendations for up to 15 qualifying patients who are age 21 or older.
- **Learn more about the LMP program at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/providers/lmp/>.**



A medical provider shows a patient information on a tablet

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) Licensing Establishment Board

Do you have knowledge and experience in the pharmaceutical or nutraceutical manufacturing industry? Are you interested in cannabis licensing? Then you may be interested in participating on the UDAF Licensing Establishment Board.

- There is an opening to fill the last seat on the board.
- To qualify, you must have knowledge and experience in the pharmaceutical or nutraceutical manufacturing industry.
- **For more information or to submit your information for consideration, email cannabis@utah.gov.**



Pharmacy Employee User Guide updated on DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis website

The DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis is invested in helping medical cannabis pharmacies have knowledge on how to best use the Electronic Verification System (EVS). To do this, a new EVS registration guide for pharmacy employees and couriers has been posted on the DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis website.

- It reviews the following information:
 - How to create a UtahID
 - How to register in ERS
 - The EVS application
 - EVS renewals
- **Review this guide at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/evs-access/>, under the Pharmacies tab.**

Research and data

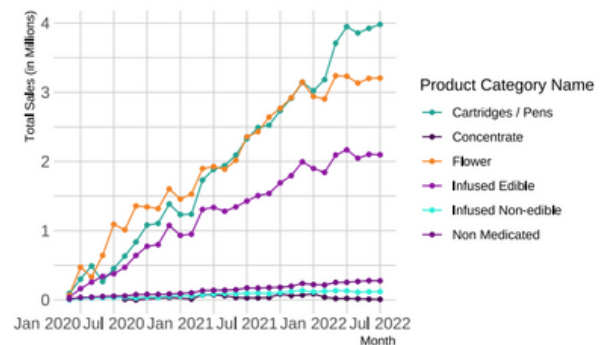
DHHS data reporting

In July and August, DHHS found:

- The number of active patients decreased by 1% to 53,956 patients in July, then increased by 4% to 56,309 patients in August.
- In August, 836 active QMPs were participating in the program.
- 22 new QMPs joined the program in August.
- In July, persistent pain was the most common qualifying condition for medical cannabis, followed by PTSD.
- Vape cartridges and vape pens were the most commonly sold products, followed by flower in July.

Review full data reports at

<https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/reporting/>



UDAF data reporting

UDAF has experienced growth in the number of its production establishments. The total number of production establishments are as follows:

- 8 cultivation licensees
- 1 independent testing lab licensee
- 2 tier-two processing licensees
- 12 tier-one processing licensees



A gloved hand holding cannabis leaves

Public notices

Medical cannabis pharmacy opening in rural Utah

We are excited that a new medical cannabis pharmacy is opening in rural Utah later this year! The new pharmacy will be located in Price. More information about the opening of this pharmacy will be provided at a later date.



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 CRRB will meet on September 13, 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, 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/>.

Utah Legislature Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group

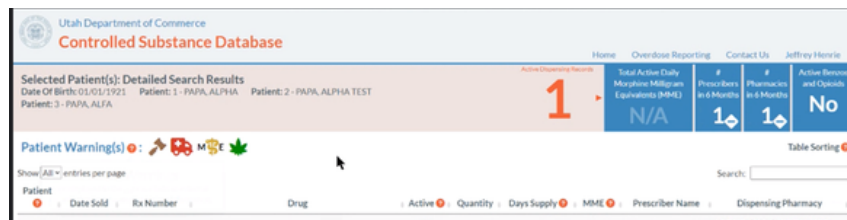
The Utah State legislature is evaluating and making recommendations about how Utah's medical cannabis program is regulated.

- Meetings for the working group are public and may be attended by the public either in-person or virtually.
- The next meeting of this group is scheduled for Monday, September 19 at 2:00 p.m.
- **For more information about workgroup meetings and to receive notifications and handouts about this workgroup, review** <https://le.utah.gov/committee/committee.jsp?year=2022&com=SPEMCG>.

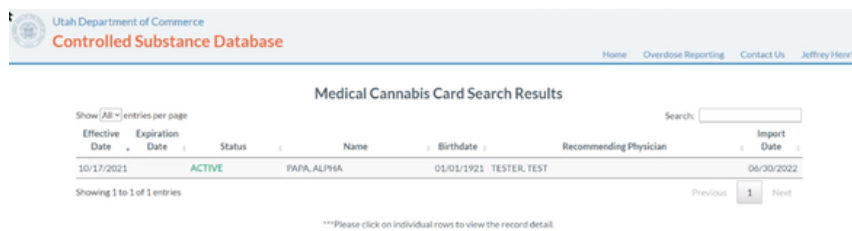
Medical cannabis cards recorded in the Utah Controlled Substance Database (CSD)

In accordance with the Utah Medical Cannabis Act 26-61a-201 (13), the Center for Medical Cannabis is required to record the issuance or revocation of a medical cannabis card in the Utah Controlled Substance Database (CSD). This information is now available in the CSD for licensed practitioners with controlled substance licenses who have access to the CSD.

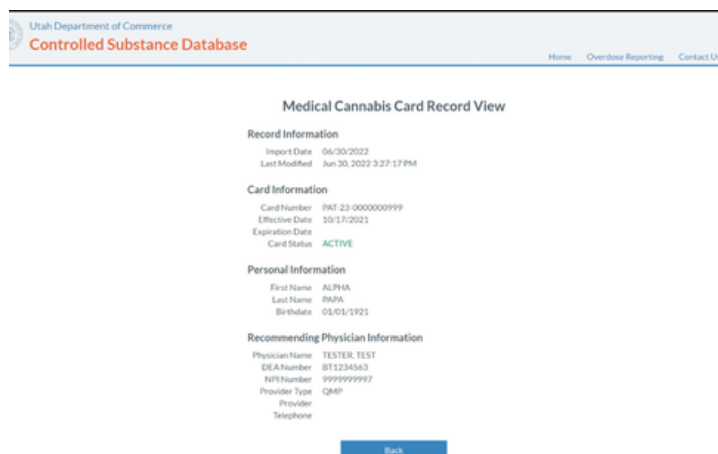
- When a licensed practitioner queries the CSD for a patient under their care, they will see a list of patient warnings that link to additional information about their patient. A patient with a green cannabis leaf symbol in the patient warnings section has an active medical cannabis record accessible in the CSD. At this time, only active cards can be viewed in the CSD.



- Clicking on the green leaf icon will display the medical cannabis card search results.



- Opening the search results will display additional detail about the medical cannabis card and the recommending medical provider.



Sign up for future updates from the Center for Medical Cannabis at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdAufQpjUVEvABe5CeHSfj9pYzGCf1t5LgvXXiDvACqAJovYg/viewform>