



March 2023 monthly update

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Sign up for future updates from the DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis at
<https://forms.gle/dig5ejZ37qygx9oY9>

Program updates

New medical cannabis administrative rules

New administrative rules about medical cannabis pharmacy agents and medical cannabis home delivery and courier services went into effect on March 1, 2023.

- **You can review the new administrative rules at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/utah-medical-cannabis-law/> under the "Admin rules" tab.**

Medical cannabis pharmacy/courier agent continuing education

In the new administrative rules that were implemented on March 1, 2023, medical cannabis pharmacy agents and courier agents must complete continuing education before applying for or renewing their agent cards.

- **Check out the new guidelines for continuing education, including current DHHS-approved continuing education courses at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/pharmacies/> under the "Agents" tab.**



Presentation about the endocannabinoid system at the Utah Association of Physician Assistants conference

We are excited to announce that Dr. Matt McIlff will be presenting a continuing education session at the Utah Association of Physician Assistants conference about the endocannabinoid system and treatment guidelines for medical cannabis on March 29th.

- **You can register to attend this conference in-person or virtually at <https://utahapa.mypanetwork.com/physician-assistant-events/773-cme-john-allen-memorial-conference-presented-by-utah-academy-of-physician-assistants#!registration>.**

Cannabis use in early pregnancy

The University of Utah finished a study looking at pregnancy outcomes when cannabis is used in the first 6-14 weeks of pregnancy. The study found that using cannabis during this time of pregnancy may **increase the risk of poor outcomes, including poor fetal growth and stillbirth**. The study also found an **increased risk of developing high blood pressure** during pregnancy after cannabis use.

- To read more about this study, visit <https://healthcare.utah.edu/publicaffairs/news/2023/02/pregnancy-cannabis.php>.

Current guidelines from health organizations like the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and MotherToBaby, all recommend avoiding cannabis during pregnancy.

- CDC guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects/pregnancy.html>
- AAP guidelines: [healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/prenatal/Pages/Marijuana-Use-During-Pregnancy-Breastfeeding.aspx](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/prenatal/Pages/Marijuana-Use-During-Pregnancy-Breastfeeding.aspx)
- MotherToBaby guidelines: <https://mothertobaby.org/pregnancy-breastfeeding-exposures/cannabis/>



A cannabis leaf, stethoscope, pill packs, and a piece of paper for a medical cannabis Rx are laying on a red background.

Medical cannabis in the news

The Utah medical cannabis program was highlighted in national news recently. Take a look at this article to learn more.

- MJBizDaily shared that in 2022, medical cannabis sales increased by 59% and were worth almost \$119 million. The article includes other statistics about our program, including a projection that 2023 sales will be worth \$135 million to \$165 million. Check out the full article at <https://mjbizdaily.com/utah-medical-marijuana-sales-up-nearly-60-percent-in-2022/>.

Upcoming meetings

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.

- For the meeting dates/times, virtual meeting links, or to see information about past meetings, visit the Utah Public Meeting Notice website at <https://www.utah.gov/pmnl/index.html>.

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

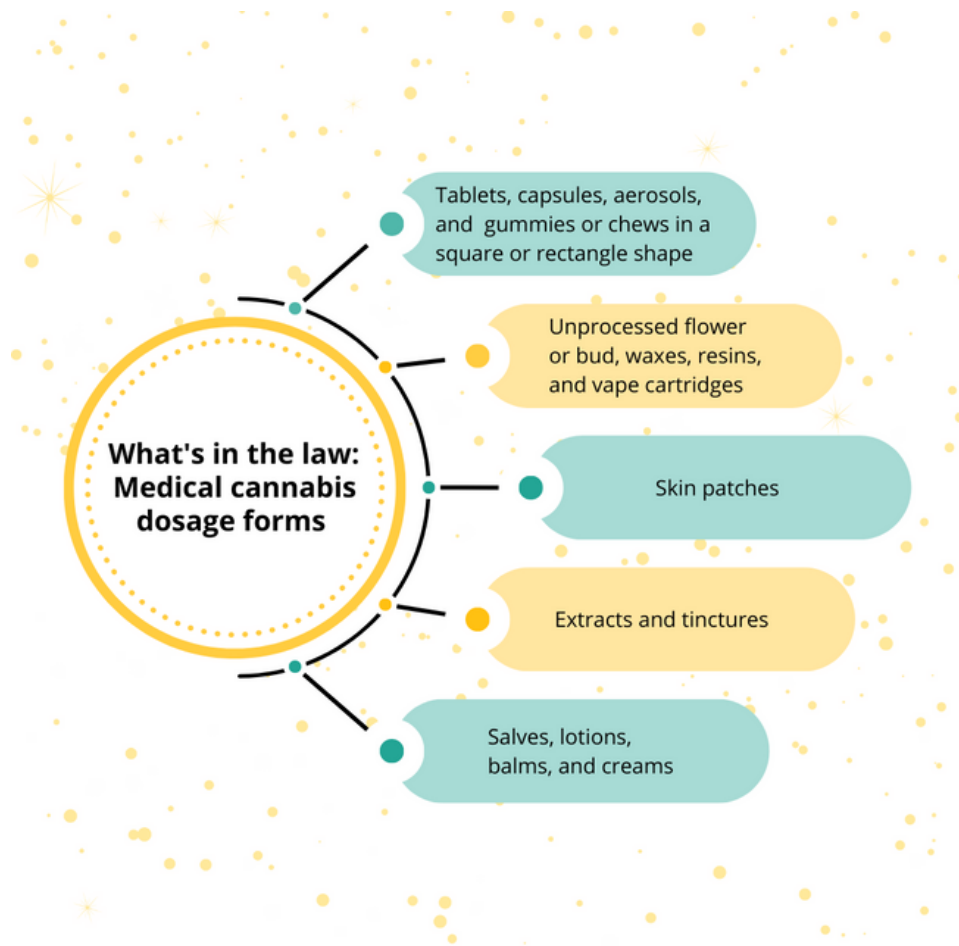
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) Cannabis Establishment Licensing Advisory Board meetings

The UDAF Cannabis Production Establishment Licensing Advisory Board reviews cannabis cultivation and production license applications and renewals. They also review requests such as ownership changes, location changes, and production changes, among others.

- The next UDAF Cannabis Establishment Licensing Boards meetings are:
 - April 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. MT
 - June 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. MT
 - August 9, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. MT
 - October 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. MT
 - December 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. MT
 - Meetings can be attended in person or virtually.
- For in-person meeting locations, virtual meeting links, or to see information about past meetings, visit the Utah Public Meeting Notice website at <https://www.utah.gov/pmnl/index.html>.

Medical cannabis education

Have you ever wondered about the specifics of the Utah Medical Cannabis Act? We're here to help! For the next few months, our medical cannabis education is going to focus on the different parts of Utah medical cannabis laws.



The Utah Medical Cannabis Act tells us which forms of medical cannabis are legal to sell and use here in Utah. There are several different categories of medical cannabis dosage forms, including ones that can be eaten, vaped, or put directly on the skin. Your recommending medical provider and the pharmacy medical provider will work with you to figure out which dosage types are going to work best for you and your medical condition.

Some types of medical cannabis aren't allowed in Utah. These include cannabis-infused cookies, candies, brownies, and drinks. It's also important to know that while cannabis flower, or bud, can be vaped, it is illegal to smoke it in Utah.

Do you have parts of the law that you'd like us to cover? Email medicalcannabis@utah.gov.

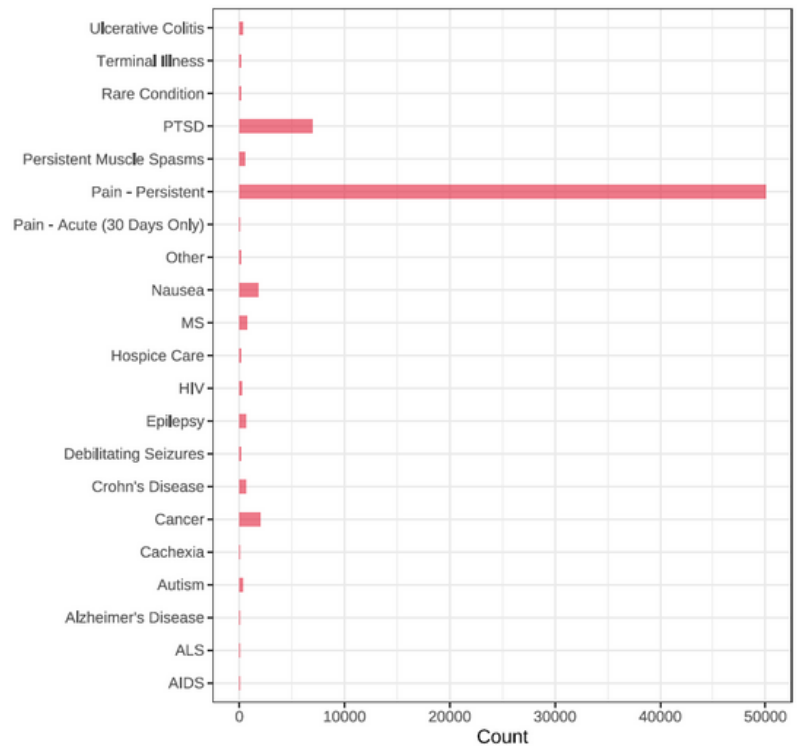
Research and data

DHHS data reporting

In February:

- The number of active medical cannabis cardholders increased by 2% from 63,622 patients in January to 65,016 patients in February.
- The most common qualifying conditions have stayed consistent in recent months. Persistent pain is the most common qualifying condition, followed by PTSD and cancer.

Qualifying Conditions



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

UDAF data reporting

As of February, there are:

- 8 medical cannabis cultivators
- 1 tier-2 processor
- 14 tier-1 processors
- 1 testing lab license



A gloved hand holding cannabis leaves

Resources

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://forms.gle/TiCGp1axn6iKj2md9>.

- 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.

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/>.**

External medical cannabis research review requests

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

- **We invite you 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://forms.gle/HegxpfZ3TdGPfkcw7>.
- 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.

UDAF medical cannabis production information

Are you interested in learning more about medical cannabis production? You can find information about production facilities, production numbers, administrative rules, application resources, and more at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/production/>.

Gray Matters education campaign about teenage marijuana misuse

Education materials about preventing teenage marijuana misuse can be found at <https://graymattersutah.org/>.



A screenshot from the Gray Matters website