



# April 2024 quarterly update

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

# Program updates

## Newsletter survey and updates

**We want to hear from you!** We're updating our quarterly newsletter and your feedback will help us make it better.

- **Take 5 minutes to complete the anonymous survey at <https://forms.gle/8dkZuJm6hqNMG8kK6>**
- The survey will close on June 1, 2024.

## DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis legislative and software updates

The Center for Medical Cannabis will be hosting a meeting intended for medical providers, medical clinics, and medical cannabis pharmacies to learn about new medical cannabis laws from the 2024 Legislative session and the new EVS software that will go live by the end of the summer.

- **Date and time: April 23, 2024 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. MT.**
- Join the meeting at <https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/84272721628>



## Survey results: qualified medical provider (QMP) resources for medical cannabis patients

In our last newsletter, we asked QMPs to complete a survey about the education they give to medical cannabis patients.

- Take a look at the survey results at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/2024/04/01/2024-qualified-medical-provider-qmp-resources-for-medical-cannabis-patients-survey/>

## Qualified medical provider (QMP) patient limits have changed

QMPs can recommend medical cannabis to the number of patients that is equal to 1.5% of the total number of registered medical cannabis patient cardholders. If a medical provider receives payment from a patient's insurance plan for services, then the patient whose insurance plan was billed does not count toward the 1.5% patient cap. The patient cap will be set quarterly.

- **As of April 1, 2024, the patient limit for all QMPs has been updated to 1,252.**
- You can review the law about QMP patient limits at [https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title26B/Chapter4/26B-4-S204.html?v=C26B-4-S204\\_2023050320230701](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title26B/Chapter4/26B-4-S204.html?v=C26B-4-S204_2023050320230701)



## Events and education

- **Ogden Surgical Medical Society Conference**
  - Richard Oborn and Dr. Matthew McIff will be presenting on 'Medical Cannabis in Utah: Utah Law and Key Aspects of Physiology, Pathology, and Pharmacology' on **May 16, 2024 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. MT.**
  - Date: May 14-17, 2024
  - Registration: <https://ogdensurgical.com/registration-3/>
- **Parcka Parleys seminar**
  - Parcka parleys is a monthly seminar series through the University of Utah that focuses on topics around addiction.
  - Watch the recent presentation on 'Harm Reduction and Cannabis: Strategies for Safer Use' at <https://medicine.utah.edu/internal-medicine/epidemiology/parcka/parleys>

# Legislative updates

There have been changes made to some Utah medical cannabis laws during the 2024 Utah General Legislative Session. We've provided a brief overview of some updates affecting patients and providers. For a more comprehensive summary, visit <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Medical-cannabis-legislation-summary-from-2024-session-1.pdf>

## Senate Bill 233 | Medical Cannabis Amendments

### For patients

- Patients can buy medical cannabis suppositories and new medical cannabis edibles, like chews.
- Patients can order medical cannabis delivery to their work. Patients can't order a medical cannabis delivery to their work if they work at a school, church, public playground, or public park.

### For providers

- Limited medical providers can petition the Compassionate Use Board.
- QMPs can petition DHHS for patients to purchase more medical cannabis than the monthly limit. This is only for patients who have a terminal illness, are expected to live less than 6 months, and who receive palliative care.
- QMPs and medical clinics can use targeted marketing, like emails, in-person events, or handouts, to advertise. Administrative rules from DHHS will provide specific guidelines for providers to follow when using targeted marketing.

### For others

- Police officers can only use the electronic verification system to verify a medical cannabis card in situations related to the administration of criminal justice (ex: crime, collecting evidence, arresting a person, or during a trial).
- State or local governments can only discipline employees for medical cannabis use if they would discipline another employee the same way for using a different controlled substance and if they have a written policy about controlled substances.



# Upcoming meetings

## Cannabis Research Review Board (CRRB) meetings

The CRRB reviews cannabis research and provides recommendations to the Utah 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 board meeting is on July 9, 2024 at 9 a.m. MT.**
- **For 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/pm/sitemap/publicbody/6025.html>**

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

## Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board meetings

The Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board discusses medical cannabis policy issues and makes policy recommendations to DHHS, UDAF, and state lawmakers.

- **Upcoming board meetings:**
  - **April 16, 2024 at 2 p.m. MT.**
  - **May 21, 2024 at 2 p.m. MT.**
  - **June 18, 2024 at 2 p.m. MT.**
- Board meetings are open to the public and can be joined virtually or in person.
- **To see information about the board, including meeting dates and times, agendas and handouts, and to subscribe to receive information about future meetings, visit the Utah Public Meeting Notice website at <https://www.utah.gov/pm/sitemap/publicbody/8241.html>**

## Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) Cannabis Production Establishment and Pharmacy Licensing Advisory Board

The UDAF Cannabis Production Establishment and Pharmacy Licensing 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. Starting July 1, 2024, pharmacies will go to the licensing board for renewals.

- **Upcoming board meetings:**
  - **April 17, 2024 at 10 a.m. MT.**
  - **June 12, 2024 (time TBD).**
- 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/pm/sitemap/publicbody/6979.html>.**

# Medical cannabis education

## Curious about cannabis dosing? **Start low, go slow.**

Finding the right dose of medical cannabis can be tricky when you first start using it. There are different types of cannabis—like edibles, vapes, or tinctures—and you'll use different amounts depending on the type you use. **Start low and go slow** while you're learning how much to use. Start low and go slow means that you start with a very small amount of cannabis (like a quarter of a gummy or 1 drop of a tincture) and slowly increase that amount each time you use cannabis until you find the amount that works best for you. This will also help you to avoid side effects from taking too much cannabis at once. Common side effects can include a dry mouth, fast heartbeat, and feeling paranoid. These side effects can be uncomfortable, but usually aren't dangerous for most people.

1

**Start with a low dose.** Talk with your medical provider or pharmacist about how much to start with.

2

**Wait before you take more.** Each type of medical cannabis will have a different amount of time before it starts working. The amount of time it takes for cannabis to start working can depend on how you take it (like eating a gummy or putting a tincture under your tongue), your body weight, if you ate or drank anything before using cannabis, and if you use cannabis regularly.

3

**Keep track of the effects.** Write down the type of cannabis you used, how much you tried, and the effects. This will help you figure out the types and amounts of cannabis that work best for you. Download a patient tracking journal at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Medical-cannabis-patient-tracking-journal.pdf>.

To learn more about cannabis dosing check out the cannabis dosing guidelines on our website at [https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-on-the-Suggested-Use-of-Medical-Cannabis\\_v1\\_Final.pdf](https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-on-the-Suggested-Use-of-Medical-Cannabis_v1_Final.pdf)

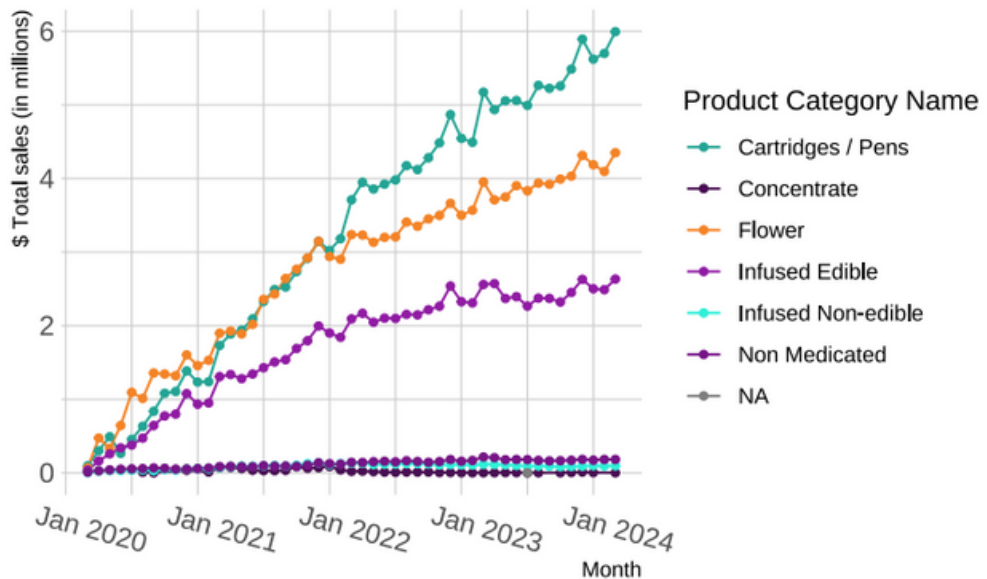
# Research and data

## DHHS data reporting

For quarter 1

- The number of active medical cannabis cardholders increased by about 5% from 79,475 patients in January to 83,421 patients in March.
- The number of QMPs decreased by 29 to 979 total QMPs between January and March.
- The number of medical cannabis cardholders continues to increase.
- Cartridges/pens are the most popular product type purchased, followed by flower and infused edibles.

Sales per type over time in \$



## Compassionate Use Board (CUB) data

2024 quarter 1 data	
number of patients with first EVS event of 'awaiting cub review'	39
number of REDCap petitions received from QMPs	26
number of board approvals	16
number of board denials	3
number of 'need more information' requests sent to QMPs	20*
*This includes EVS event and REDCap petition data received in previous quarters	

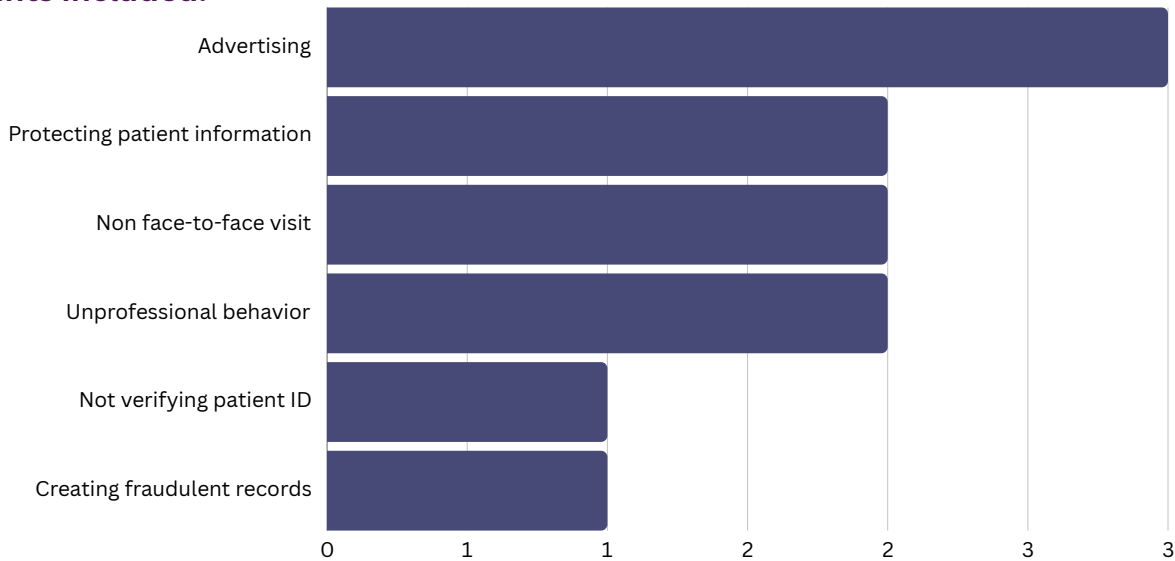
For additional information regarding the Compassionate Use Board, email [CUBCMC@utah.gov](mailto:CUBCMC@utah.gov) or visit <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/compassionate-use-board/>



# Operations

DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis received 8 complaints in the 1st quarter.

**Complaints included:**



**Total audits:**  
**5,015**

**Average compliance rate:**  
**95.69%**

**Audits performed**

- Patients with a rare condition as a qualifying condition met the statutory definition.
- Patients with limited medical providers (LMPs) had certificates entered correctly.
- Patients registered as Utah residents had Utah addresses.
- The identifications entered are accurate
- QMPs who advertise they are a QMP are registered as QMPs
- QMPs DOPL license numbers are valid and active.
- Background checks are only kept for active registrants
- Telehealth visits meet statutory restrictions.
- Patients with a PTSD qualifying condition met the statutory definition.

As the CMC has completed audits, we have found a few QMPs that were unfamiliar with the laws pertaining to certifying a medical cannabis patient. The bulletin that outlines some of the laws can be found at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Industry-Bulletin-2024-24-01-1.pdf>.



# 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. Always contact the clinic or your insurance provider to confirm what your 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/Ezmf3aGVsDZzYrqb7>.

- You'll need to provide the name of the QMP 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. **Please be aware that there is a wait list and it may take some time to receive assistance.**

- 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 make sure that the guidelines they create include all available high-quality research about medical cannabis. To do this, they are continuing to consider research studies submitted by the industry, medical providers, 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 DHHS and CRRB. 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/Title26B/Chapter1/26B-1-S420.html?v=C26B-1-S420\\_2023050320230503](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title26B/Chapter1/26B-1-S420.html?v=C26B-1-S420_2023050320230503)

## 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/>.

