



# January 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

## Request a speaker for an event or presentation about the Utah Center for Medical Cannabis

Does your organization want to learn more about medical cannabis in Utah? The DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis can provide presentations about our program, including medical cannabis laws, how the program works, and how medical providers recommend medical cannabis.

- If you want to request a presentation, complete the google form at <https://forms.gle/VhGzdtVLYwzpXjSr7>



## Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR) at the University of Utah

In 2023, the University of Utah created the Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR). The research center's purpose is to conduct research about cannabis and foster a research based approach that impacts public health and educates stakeholders on safe use of cannabis and cannabis products.

- Visit their website at <https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/center-for-medical-cannabis-research>
- The Center for Medical Cannabis Research is holding a symposium for researchers who are interested in medical cannabis on January 30, 2024 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
  - Register by Monday, January 22. Find the link for registration on their website at <https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/cmcr-symposium>
  - If you are interested in presenting your cannabis related research at the Center for Medical Cannabis Research symposium, please contact [Valerie.Ahanonu@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:Valerie.Ahanonu@hsc.utah.edu).
- If you are interested in receiving the Center for Medical Cannabis Research newsletter, sign up through this link <https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1988569/1966324.361729268/>

## Announcing the Division of Health Access

The Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recently created the new Division of Health Access. The DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis was moved so that it fits in this division. This change won't affect medical cannabis patients, medical providers, or pharmacies. You can still contact us at our customer service line (801-538-6504) or by emailing [medicalcannabis@utah.gov](mailto:medicalcannabis@utah.gov).

## Qualified Medical Provider (QMP) survey: resources for medical cannabis patients

- The DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis is working on developing resources intended for **QMPs** to help patients understand the potential risks and benefits of using medical cannabis. We would like QMPs to fill out a short survey about the conversations that they have with their patients about the effects of medical cannabis and the materials, if any, that they provide to patients during medical cannabis appointments.
- QMPs can complete the survey at <https://pubredcap.health.utah.gov/surveys/?s=MRMFLYF48P98NRWH>. The survey will close on Friday, February 2.
- After completing the survey, send us digital copies of any educational materials about medical cannabis that you give to patients at [medicalcannabis@utah.gov](mailto:medicalcannabis@utah.gov)

## Board updates

- **Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board (MCPAB)** - We would like to welcome our newest member, Chris Morgan, to the board. He is an APRN with a background in psychiatric care.
- **Cannabis Research Review Board (CRRB)** - The board updated its guidance document with recommendations on using medical cannabis to treat Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis. Review the updates and all other CRRB guidance documents at <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/cannabinoid-product-board/#crrb-documents>

## DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis in the news

- The DHHS Primary Care and Rural Health program wrote a blog post about how medical providers in rural communities can recommend medical cannabis. Check it out at <https://ruralhealth.utah.gov/health-media/rural-providers-may-recommend-for-medical-cannabis-program/>
- The Utah Academy of Family Physicians (UAFP) featured an article about how medical providers can recommend medical cannabis to their patients. Take a look at <https://uafp-journal.thenewslinkgroup.org/recommending-medical-cannabis-in-utah/>
- Utah Public Radio discusses the partnership between the State of Utah and the Center for Medical Cannabis Research at the University of Utah. Listen at <https://www.upr.org/utah-news/2023-11-28/state-of-utah-partners-with-utah-universities-to-create-new-medical-cannabis-research-center>

## 2024 UAFP CME and ski conference

Are you a family physician or a medical student interested in family medicine? Have you ever wanted to attend a conference and ski in between sessions? Then look no further. Utah Academy of Family Physicians will be hosting a continuing medical education conference in Park City with a virtual option. There will be a variety of guest speakers, including the Cannabis Research Review Board Chair, Dr. McIlff. He will be presenting on medical cannabis treatment basics.

- Monday, Feb 5 - Wednesday, Feb 7, 2024. Last day to register is January 19
- Registration: <https://utahafp.regfox.com/2024-uafp-cme-ski>

## 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 January 1, 2024, the patient limit for all QMPs has been updated to 1,162.**
- 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)

## Rule changes that went into effect January 1, 2024

On January 1, 2024, DHHS rule changes were enacted that impact patients and providers in the medical cannabis program.

- Rule 383-2-3 clarified that people who have access to patient and inventory information through medical cannabis software programs shall safeguard their login credentials and can't share their login information with other people.
- Rule 383-4 set standards for qualified medical provider proxies.

In 2023, the department in charge of regulating medical cannabis pharmacies changed from DHHS to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF). On January 1, 2024, the transition period for moving these responsibilities from DHHS to UDAF ended.

- The rules about medical cannabis pharmacy home delivery and courier services were updated from previous DHHS rules (R383) to UDAF rules R68-40 (Medical Cannabis Pharmacy) and R68-41 (Home Delivery and Couriers).

For more information on rule changes, visit <https://adminrules.utah.gov/public/home>. If you have questions about DHHS rule changes, email [medicalcannabis@utah.gov](mailto:medicalcannabis@utah.gov). For questions about the medical cannabis pharmacy program at UDAF, please contact [cannabis@utah.gov](mailto:cannabis@utah.gov).

# 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 April 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/pmn/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 was created during the 2023 legislative session. This board discusses medical cannabis policy issues and makes policy recommendations to DHHS, UDAF, and state lawmakers.

- **The next board meeting is on February 20, 2024 at 2 p. 16, 2024 at 2 p.m. MT.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/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/8241.html>**

## Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) Cannabis Production 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 board meeting is February 8, 2024, time is to be determined.**
- 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/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/6979.html>.**

## 2024 General Session of the 65th Legislature

The Utah Legislature's general session begins January 16, 2024 and ends March 1, 2024.

- **To receive meeting notifications and to see meeting agendas or other information, visit the Utah Legislature's website at <https://le.utah.gov/~2024/2024.HTM>**

# Medical cannabis education

## Renewing your medical cannabis card

**Note:** You may complete the renewal process 30 days before your card expires. If your card hasn't expired, the system automatically moves the application to "awaiting certification" 30 days prior to expiration. If your card has expired or you cancelled your card, you need to resubmit.

**1**

**The Electronic Verification System (EVS) will notify you by email 30 days prior to your expiration date.**

- If you need to update your address or ID information, sign in to the EVS to make that change.
- If your card has already expired, sign in to the EVS and resubmit your application for certification.

**2**

**Your medical provider must now enter a new certification for you. Contact your medical provider and schedule a renewal appointment. Tell them that your certification in EVS is ready for them to renew.**

**3**

**After your medical provider has renewed your certification, your status in the EVS will change to "awaiting payment." Once your status changes, you can pay the \$15 renewal fee. Renewal payment needs to be received before the end of the day on the expiration day.**

- Log in to the EVS and navigate to your patient profile by hovering over "tracking inbox" and click "patient". Then click your name.
- Click the grey "payment" tab (below the blue status bar and above your information). Make sure your browser's pop-up blockers are disabled.
- Click "+new", then "click here to make payment." A new window will open.
- Enter your payment information and click submit.
- Once you receive a payment confirmation, you will be automatically redirected back to the EVS.
- Hover over "tracking inbox" and click "patient". Click your name.
- On your profile, your status will change to "renewal completed" or "awaiting state review."

**If your status is "renewal completed" you are finished. You will continue to use your current card until its expiration date. The date after your current card expires you will receive your new card. If your current card is expired you will receive your new card the day after you have paid.**

**Do you have questions about your medical cannabis card? Email [medicalcannabis@utah.gov](mailto:medicalcannabis@utah.gov)**

## Research and data

### DHHS data reporting

For quarter 4

- The number of active medical cannabis cardholders increased by about 1% from 72,370 patients in October to 77,518 in December.
- The number of QMPs increased by 28 to 982 total QMPs between October and December.
- The number of medical cannabis cardholders continues to increase.
- Persistent pain and PTSD continue to be the top qualifying conditions for patients.

Qualifying condition	Total number of patients
AIDS	12
ALS	17
Alzheimer's Disease	57
Autism	438
Cachexia	48
Cancer	1,508
Crohn's Disease	657
Debilitating seizures	125
Epilepsy	676
HIV	240
Hospice care	75
MS	777
Nausea	2,230
Other	12
Pain - acute (30 days only)	106
Pain - persistent	60,908
Persistent muscle spasms	689
PTSD	8,436
Rare condition	193
Terminal illness	61
Ulcerative colitis	379

### Compassionate Use Board (CUB) data

2023 quarter 4 data	
number of patients with first EVS event of 'awaiting cub review'	53
number of REDCap petitions received from QMPs	36
number of board approvals	16
number of board denials	0
number of 'need more information' requests sent to QMPs	27*
*This includes EVS event and REDCap petition data received in previous quarters	

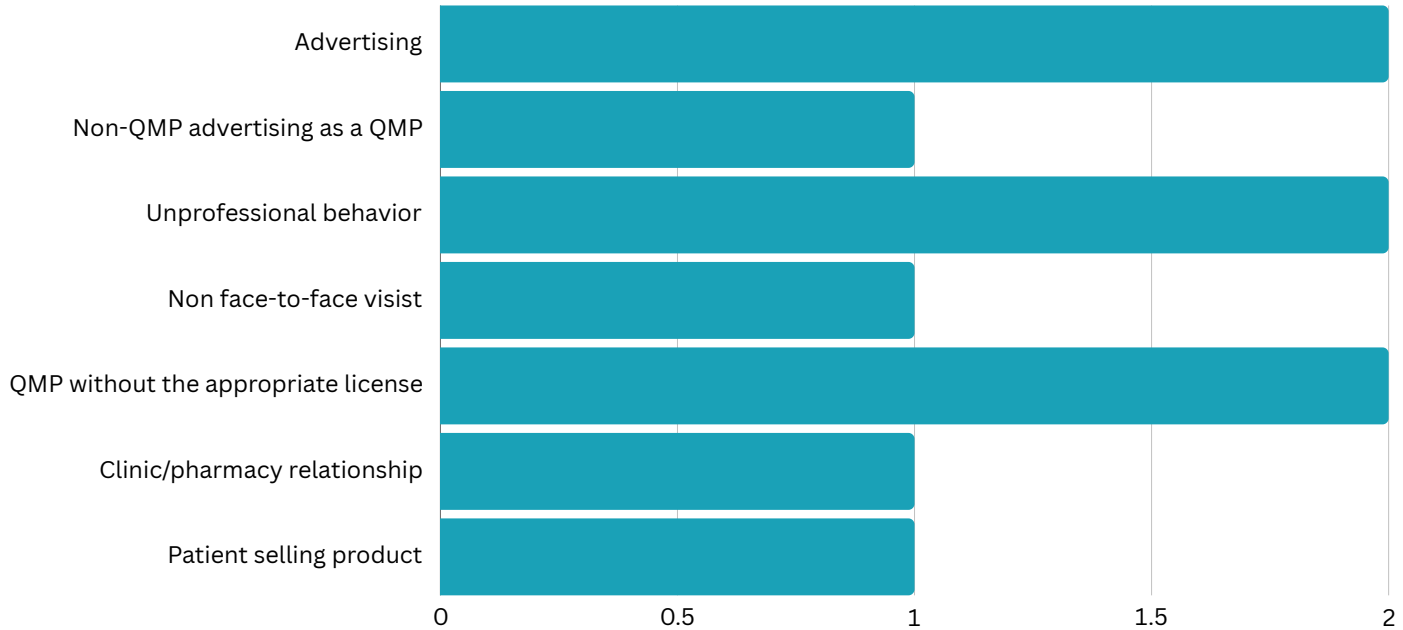
For additional information regarding the Compassionate Use Board, email [CUBCMC@utah.gov](mailto:CUBCMC@utah.gov) or visit <https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/compassionate-use-board/>



# Operations

DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis received 10 complaints in the 4th quarter.

**Complaints included:**



**Total audits:  
2,014**

**Average  
compliance rate:  
78.09%**

## 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.
- QMPs who advertised also reported their fees to DHHS.
- QMPs DOPL license numbers are valid.
- Background checks are only kept for registrants that are active.
- Patients only purchased products that were allowed by their recommending medical provider.



# 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/>.

