Utah Department of
Health & Human Services
Center for Medical Cannabis

October 2023 quarterly update

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Sign up for future updates from the DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis at https://forms.gle/dig5eJZ37qygx9oY9

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Program updates

Welcome to our new quarterly update!

Thank you to all of our stakeholders who subscribe and read these quarterly updates!

- The next update will be released in January.
- We may send out a separate email to stakeholders with important news that can't wait until the next update.

In between our updates, you can keep up with us by using these resources:

- Subscribe to public meeting updates for the Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board, the Cannabis Research Review Board, and the Center for Medical Cannabis on the Utah Public Notice website at **https://www.utah.gov/pmn/** so that you don't miss any of our public meetings.
- Look at our monthly data reports on the program data section of our website at **https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/program-data/**.
- Look at the published medical cannabis education materials by going to the resource library section of our website at **https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/resource-library/**.
- Visit our website at **https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/** for more resources, like how to access the EVS, frequently asked questions, and a link to the medical cannabis cost visit website.

Qualified medical provider (QMP) patient limits have changed

During the 2023 legislative session, the number of medical cannabis recommendations that a QMP can provide changed. Now, 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 during each calendar year.

- **As of October 1, 2023, the patient limit for all QMPs has been updated to 1,093.**
- 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**

Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board meetings

The Medical Cannabis Policy Advisory Board is a new 9-member board consisting of different stakeholders. Its meetings are open to the public and are hosted by the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). DHHS and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) staff members attend board meetings. After listening to public comment, the board voted to recommend that UDAF make the following changes to administrative rules:

- Require that medical cannabis capsules, gummies, liquid suspensions, tablets, and tinctures include the amount of total THC and any advertised cannabinoids on the product's fact panel, listed in milligrams per serving.
- Limit medical cannabis products to include no more than 2 seeds per 3.5 grams of unprocessed cannabis flower.
- Ban the presence of hexahydrocannabinol (HHC), tetrahydrocannabinol acetate (THC-OAc), and 3-heptyl-delta(1)-tetrahydrocannabinol (THCP) in medical cannabis products.

UDAF is considering these recommendations and will soon draft and file any proposed rule changes. General information about the board can be found here:
https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/medical-cannabis-policy-advisory-board/

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) now oversees medical cannabis pharmacies and medical cannabis couriers

During the 2023 Legislative Session, HB72 was passed. HB72 makes it so that UDAF takes over most regulatory authority over medical cannabis pharmacies. Here's what this means for you:

- For patients and medical providers, nothing changes. You will still use the EVS to submit and manage your medical cannabis recommendations.
- For medical cannabis pharmacists, nothing changes. DHHS will still oversee all medical providers, which includes you. DHHS oversees your continuing education and your medical cannabis pharmacist registration.
- For medical cannabis pharmacy and couriers, UDAF oversees facility compliance visits, continuing education, and your medical cannabis pharmacy agent or courier agent registration. If you have questions or concerns, you can reach out to UDAF at **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 October 10, 2023 at 9 a.m. MT.**
- The board will discuss the effects of medical cannabis on Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.
- **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/notice/830495.html**

Cannabis Research Review Board meeting information and recordings are available at https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/cannabinoid-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 October 19, 2023 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/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/8241.html**

Upcoming presentation on medical cannabis treatment basics, endocannabinoid system and evidence-based guidance

The University of Utah program for addiction research, clinical care, knowledge, and advocacy (PARCKA) is hosting a virtual presentation covering an introduction to medical cannabis therapy, the endocannabinoid system, treatment basics, and evidence-based guidance. Additionally, it will address the role of cannabis therapy as well as the awareness and perception of this treatment within the state's medical community.

- **This presentation is on October 3, 2023 at 12 p.m. MT.**
- Dr. Matthew McIff, a QMP registered by DHHS, will be the presenter.
- **To access the meeting, please visit the zoom like at https://utah-health.zoom.us/j/91620113010?pwd=MHM0anhLcjI3RWtzWjhFeWNyT05NUT09**

Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group

The Utah Legislature's Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working group has their last meeting of the year coming up.

- **The next meeting is on October 10, 2023, at 4 p.m. MT.**
- These meetings are open to the public, and can be attended in-person or virtually.
- **To subscribe to notifications for these meetings and to see the agenda and other meeting information, visit the Utah Legislature's website at https://le.utah.gov/committee/committee.jsp?year=2023&com=SPEMCG**

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 UDAF Cannabis Establishment Licensing Advisory Board meetings are:
  - October 10, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. MT
  - December 5, 2023, at 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/pmn/sitemap/notice/837119.html.**

Medical cannabis education

Have you ever been curious about your rights as a medical cannabis patient? We have some helpful information to understand the laws about driving and medical cannabis. In the next few quarterly updates, our medical cannabis education will focus on the different parts of Utah medical cannabis laws.

Transporting medical cannabis

Do

- Have your medical cannabis card with you
- Keep the product in the container you received it in from the pharmacy and keep all labels on the container
- Check that the label includes the pharmacy it was sold from and has an identification number
- Have the amount of medical cannabis recommended to you or less

Don't

- Tear the label off of the container
- Transport cannabis for another patient unless you're registered as their guardian or caregiver
- Put the product in a new container
- Have more than the amount of medical cannabis recommended to you

*Legal limit: 113 grams of unprocessed cannabis (flower); and 20 grams of THC in all other forms, like gummies, tinctures, vape cartridges, etc.

What happens if I forget my card and I get pulled over?

If a law enforcement officer stops you in the state of Utah and you have medical cannabis products or devices on you, but don't have your medical cannabis card, the officer must attempt to access the state electronic verification system (EVS) to verify whether you have an active medical cannabis patient card.

If the officer is able to verify that you have an active medical cannabis patient card, then the officer may not arrest you only for having medical cannabis products or medical cannabis devices with you. Additionally, the officer may not seize your medical cannabis product or device.

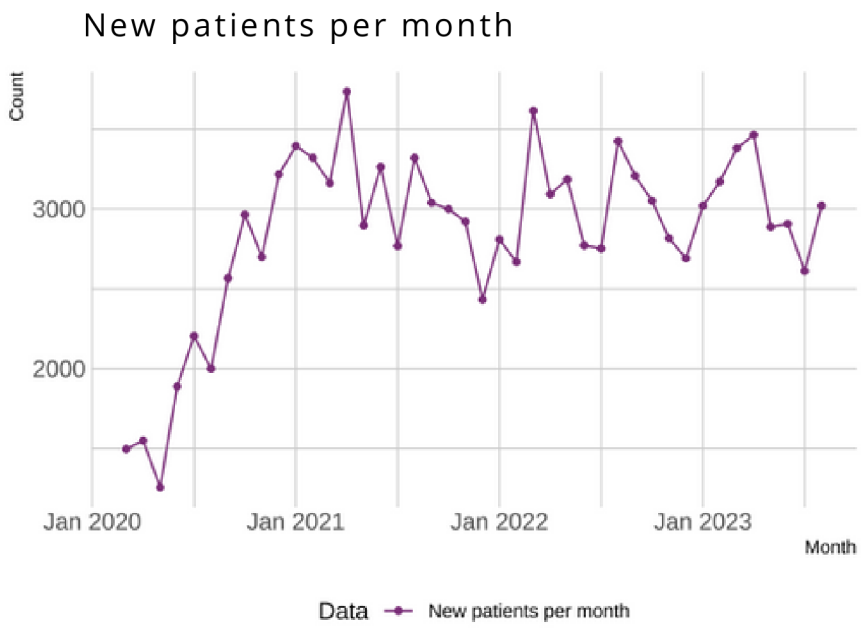
Do you have parts of the law that you'd like us to cover? Email medicalcannabis@utah.gov.

Research and data

DHHS data reporting

For quarter 3:

- The number of active medical cannabis cardholders increased by 1% from 71,850 patients in June to 72,370 in September.
- The number of QMPs decreased by 5 to 954 total QMPs between June and September.
- Most medical patients are between the ages of 31-40 years.
- There has been an increase in new patients since August.



Compassionate Use Board (CUB) data

2023 quarter 3 data	
number of patients with first EVS event of 'awaiting cub review'	67
number of REDCap petitions received from QMPs	60
number of board approvals	30
number of board denials	1
number of 'need more information' requests sent to QMPs	60*
*This includes EVS event and REDCap petition data received in previous quarters	

For additional information regarding the Compassionate Use Board, email CUBCMC@utah.gov or visit https://medicalcannabis.utah.gov/resources/compassionate-use-board/

UDAF data reporting

As of September 2023, there are:

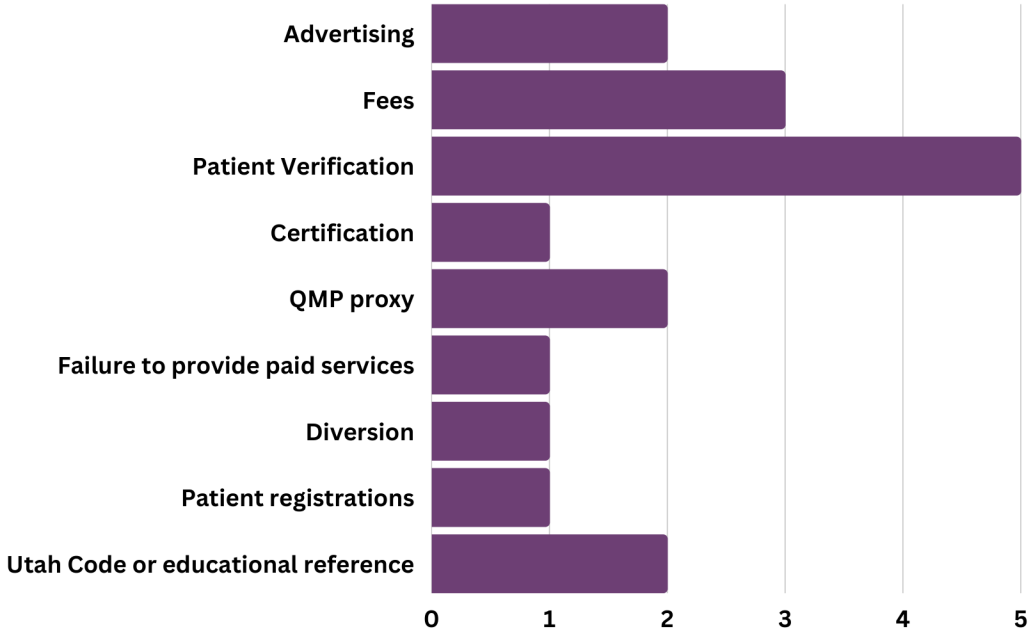
- 8 medical cannabis cultivators who are allowed to cultivate medical cannabis.
- 1 tier-2 processor who is allowed to package and label medical cannabis products.
- 14 tier-1 processors who are allowed to process, formulate, package, and label medical cannabis products.
- 1 testing lab licensee who tests medical cannabis products before they're sold.
- 15 medical cannabis pharmacies who are allowed to sell products directly to patients.

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

Operations

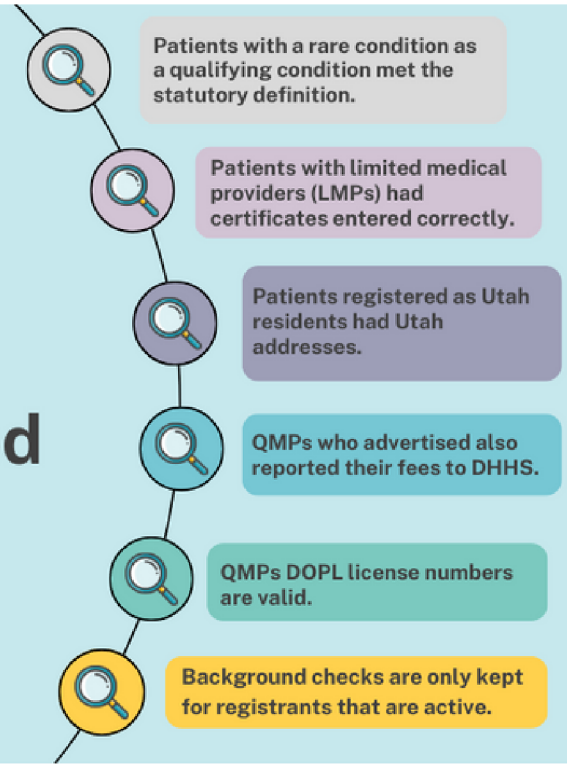
DHHS Center for Medical Cannabis received 18 complaints in the 2nd quarter.

Complaints included:



DHHS CMC performed 2,097 audits and had an average compliance rate of 81.93%.

Audits performed



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/TiCGp1axn6iKj2md9**.

- 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.

- 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/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/**.