



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

Center for Medical Cannabis

Utah Medical Cannabis Act Implementation Update

Presented by

Richard Oborn, MPA
Center Director
Center for Medical Cannabis
Utah Department of Health

May 15, 2019

MISSION & VISION



The Utah Department of Health's mission is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability, and premature death; assuring access to affordable, quality health care; and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Our vision is for Utah to be a place where *all* people can enjoy the best health possible, where *all* can live and thrive in healthy and safe communities.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Healthiest People – The people of Utah will be among the healthiest in the country.

Optimize Medicaid – Utah Medicaid will be a respected innovator in employing health care delivery and payment reforms that improve the health of Medicaid members and keep expenditure growth at a sustainable level.

A Great Organization – The UDOH will be recognized as a leader in government and public health for its excellent performance. The organization will continue to grow its ability to attract, retain, and value the best professionals and public servants.



Center for Medical Cannabis

Working with trained medical professionals, qualified patients will receive a recommendation for quality-controlled cannabis products from a licensed pharmacist in a medicinal dosage form.

COMPASSIONATE USE BOARD



- Individuals who do not have a “qualifying condition” may submit a petition to the Compassionate Use Board (CUB) for review. All patients under age 21, regardless of their medical condition, must have their application approved by the CUB.
- Board is appointed by Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health and confirmed by the Utah State Senate.
- Comprised of 7 physicians including at least 2 pediatricians.



For more information about the Compassionate Use Board, see Utah Code 26-61a-105.

COMPASSIONATE USE BOARD



Board members must be:

- Licensed in Utah as a physician under Medical Practice Act or Osteopathic Medical Practice Act.
- Board certified in at least one of the following: neurology, pain medicine and pain management, medical oncology, psychiatry, infectious disease, internal medicine, pediatrics, or gastroenterology.
- Knowledgeable about the medicinal use of medical cannabis.
- Registered as a qualified medical provider by the Utah Department of Health.



For more information about the Compassionate Use Board, see Utah Code 26-61a-105.

COMPASSIONATE USE BOARD



- First meeting to be in Fall 2019.
- Meetings to be monthly at beginning, or more frequent if necessary.
- Petitions must be reviewed and approval or denial determined within 90 days of electronic submittal.
- Board is required to submit an annual report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee.



For more information about the Compassionate Use Board, see Utah Code 26-61a-105.

COMPASSIONATE USE BOARD



UDOH took the following steps to evaluate Board members:

- Sought recommendations from several groups
- Verified professional licenses with DOPL
- Performed internet search on background on each
- Names shared with Governor's Office and no concerns expressed
- Personally spoke to each appointee



For more information about the Compassionate Use Board, see Utah Code 26-61a-105

COMPASSIONATE USE BOARD



UDOH submitted the following physicians for confirmation by the Utah State Senate:

- Joel Ehrenkranz, MD
- Ed Redd, MD
- Angelo Giardino, MD
- Nicholas Whipple, MD
- Meghan Ward, MD
- Richard Segal, MD
- Colleen Marty, MD

MEDICAL CANNABIS SYSTEM



- A Request for Proposals (RFP) to build and maintain the electronic verification and inventory control system was posted in March 2019.
- Following evaluation of mandatory minimum requirements, 7 companies advanced to the technical score stage.
- MJ Freeway was determined to provide the best value to the State of Utah based on its technical score and cost score.
- UDOH and UDAF are now meeting with MJ Freeway to coordinate specifics of the contract.



ADMINISTRATIVE RULES



- Utah Medical Cannabis Act references the Utah Department of Health's responsibility to draft rules on various topics such as:
 - EVS access limitations
 - Patient information distribution
 - Pharmacy agent certification standards
 - Pharmacy fine schedule
 - Cannabis product recall
 - Transportation standards
 - Provider continuing education
- Rules scheduled to become effective Summer 2019.



PROVIDER EDUCATION



- The Utah Department of Health must approve courses to be completed by providers seeking to become registered as qualified medical providers (QMPs).
- QMPs must complete at least 4 hours of continuing education during each 2 year renewal cycle.
- General course criteria to be specified in rule and private companies may submit courses to UDOH for approval.
- UDOH plans to post links to approved courses on the medical cannabis program website in Summer 2019.



For information about the QMP continuing education requirement, see Utah Code 26-61a-106 (3).

MEDICAL CANNABIS PHARMACIES



- The Utah Cannabis Association hosted the Utah Department of Health for an informal Q & A Session focused on medical cannabis pharmacies and many individuals interested in applying for licenses attended the meeting.
- UDOH received input regarding plans to post the private medical cannabis pharmacy RFP in July 2019.
- UDOH plans to award the 7 private medical cannabis pharmacy licenses in September 2019.



For information about medical cannabis pharmacy requirements, see Utah Code 26-61a-301.

STATE CENTRAL FILL PHARMACY



- July 2020 is the deadline for the state central fill (SCF) medical cannabis pharmacy to begin operating.
- UDOH is conducting thorough evaluation of SCF operations and how to provide the best service for the lowest cost.
- UDOH is meeting with officials from local health departments to coordinate implementation plans.
- Local health departments are evaluating their infrastructure and staffing needs.



For complete information about the state central fill medical cannabis pharmacy requirements, see Utah Code 26-61a-601 to 608.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



May 2019	Award RFP for Electronic Verification and Inventory Control System
July 2019	Approved medical provider education courses posted on website Administrative rules become effective
Sept 2019	Medical providers begin applying online to become qualified medical providers First meeting of Compassionate Use Board Award 7 private medical cannabis pharmacy licenses
Nov 2019	Patients begin applying online for medical cannabis registration cards
Dec 2019	Compassionate Use Board begins reviewing patient applications
Jan 2020-Mar 2020	Private pharmacies open and patients begin purchasing medical cannabis in Utah
Apr 2020 - July 2020	State Central Fill Medical Cannabis Pharmacy opens with certain local health department locations acting as distribution points
Jan 2021	Medical cannabis cards required for legal possession of medical cannabis

QUESTIONS?



Contact Information

Utah Department of Health
Medical Cannabis Program

(801) 538-6504

medicalcannabis@utah.gov

health.utah.gov/medical-cannabis