



Performance Note
HB3001 - Utah Medical Cannabis
Act
Sponsor: Rep. Hughes, Gregory H.



Performance Note Report

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Agency: Department of Health

Funding For:

New Services or Benefit

Public Benefit:

Purpose: The Medical Cannabis Program, housed within the Utah Department of Health, will provide for the medical recommendation and patient use of medical cannabis. Specifically, the Program will allow for access by those with qualifying medical conditions (26-61a-105) to apply for medical cannabis patient cards, receive recommendations from qualified medical providers (26-61a-107), and obtain medical cannabis from a licensed medical cannabis pharmacy. Additionally, the Program will allow for a State Central Fill Pharmacy, which creates patient access to medical cannabis beyond the 7 private medical cannabis pharmacies. It is anticipated that qualifying patients living in rural areas will order from the State Central Fill Pharmacy rather than one of the private medical cannabis pharmacies.

Services: The funding increase will allow for two major functions of the Program: 1 - Administrative programming that will provide the review and processing of patient, guardian, and caregiver cardholder applications as well as authorize qualified medical professionals to recommend medical cannabis. It will also provide for policy development and analyzation, compliance and quality assurance of products and privately owned medical cannabis pharmacies, and provide education to the public. 2 - The State Central Fill Pharmacy will provide an alternative way for patient cardholders to obtain medical cannabis, particularly those that reside in rural areas. The purpose of the State Central Fill pharmacy will be to fill orders made by patient cardholders and deliver them to local health departments, decreasing the distance they must travel in order to pick up their recommended medical cannabis products.

Expected Outcome: Implementation of the bill would create a Program that will serve the population of Utah that suffers from several medical conditions from which cannabis may be able to provide relief. It is anticipated that approximately 50,000 patients in Utah may benefit from the use of medical cannabis. The Program, housed within the Utah Department of Health, would allow for administration of policies, rules, and day-to-day implementation for patient, guardian, and caregiver cardholders. Additionally, the Program would review and process qualified medical provider applications, which will provide the necessary recommendation for patient cardholders to purchase medical cannabis. The State Central Fill Pharmacy will allow for increased access to medical cannabis, particularly for those who live in rural areas, who may not otherwise be able to travel to the closest privately owned medical cannabis pharmacy.

Implementations and Resources: The Program will be established within the Utah Department of Health, housed in the Executive Director's Office, in the Cannon Health Building. Implementation includes creating a staff of individuals that will perform administrative duties, including:

- Development and maintenance of an electronic verification system (EVS) for cardholder applications and processing, medical provider licensure applications and processing, State Central Fill Pharmacy inventory management, and a cardholder verification system (allowing for confirmation of eligibility to purchase medical cannabis).
- Creation and oversight of a Compassionate Use Board, which will review cases for eligibility.
- Development of policies and procedures for all Program implementation, including the establishment of quality assurance criteria for privately owned medical cannabis pharmacies. Additionally, the Program will provide direct compliance assurance by conducting audits in all of these locations.
- Processing all applications, providing education, and responding to public concerns. Implementation also requires contracting with a vendor to act at the State Central Fill Pharmacy that will be responsible for meeting patient demands for product by receiving, filling, and shipping those orders to local health departments.

How: Implementation of the Program at the administrative level will provide Utah citizens the opportunity to apply for medical cannabis patient, caregiver, and guardian cards, enabling them to purchase medical cannabis from either the State Central Fill Pharmacy (to be fulfilled by the local health departments) or a privately owned medical cannabis pharmacy. Additionally, the review and approval of qualified medical professionals by the Program will facilitate the ability to provide recommendations to patients in need. Finally, development of policies and compliance procedures will provide quality assurance and ensure lawful implementation by all involved parties. Development of a State Central Fill Pharmacy will increase access by patients, particularly those who reside in rural areas, by meeting patient recommendation needs, creating shipments with the specified amounts of medical cannabis for each patient, and shipping to local health departments.

Performance Measures

Goal

Title: 1 - Develop a Program by March 2020 that will provide the accessibility of medical cannabis.
2 - Contract with vendor to operate as the State Central Fill Pharmacy.

Description: 1 - The Program must include the development of a functioning electronic verification system (EVS), licensure of up to seven privately owned medical cannabis pharmacies, administrative staff to process cardholder and provider applications, and comprehensive written policy procedures. 2 - The State Central Fill Pharmacy will require contracting with a vendor that fills orders for medical cannabis from patients.

Collection Method: 1 - Performance will be measured by the success or failure to establish a functioning Medical Cannabis Program within the Utah Department of Health by the March 2020 deadline. 2 - Performance will be measured by the success or failure to contract with a vendor to operate as the State Central Fill Pharmacy and to begin filling orders from patients by the March 2020 deadline. More defined performance measures could be provided in the future once the programs have been developed and exact operations are known.

	2019	2020	2021
Target	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baseline	0.00	0.00	0.00

By rule, performance notes are provided by the governmental entity that will supervise the new agency or administer the new program. Performance notes are not written by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.