



2020 MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 2020

In accordance with the Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act, § 21-28.6-6(m), the Department of Health (RIDOH) respectfully submits this annual report on applications for the use of medical marijuana for symptom relief.

1) The total number of applications for registration as a qualifying patient, primary caregiver and authorized purchaser made to RIDOH.

For the fiscal year, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 RIDOH received 4,797 new patient applications, 160 caregiver applications and 289 authorized purchaser applications.

2) The total number of applications for registration as a qualifying patient, primary caregiver and authorized purchaser approved:

For the fiscal year, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 RIDOH approved and issued 4,855 patient registrations, 161 caregiver registrations and 294 authorized purchaser registrations.

The number of applications approved is larger than the number received due to there were a percentage of applications that were incomplete upon receipt prior to July 1, 2019. When we receive the requisite documentation and/or fees for incomplete applications, the application is approved, and the registration is issued at that time.

3) The nature of the debilitating conditions of qualifying patients:

Practitioner Written Certifications contained the following debilitating conditions for the time period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020:

Please note that many patients have more than one diagnosis code. Therefore, the count of diagnosis codes will always be higher than the number of patients.

Qualifying Debilitating Condition	Percentage of Total Patients	Number of Patients
Severe Debilitating, Chronic Pain	62.48%	3718
Severe Nausea	7.43%	442
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	13.19%	785
Cancer or Treatment	6.40%	381
Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms	5.01%	298
Seizures, Including Epilepsy	1.56%	93
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	1.14%	68
Hepatitis C or Treatment	0.64%	38

Glaucoma or Treatment	0.81%	48
Positive Status for HIV or Treatment	0.50%	30
AIDS or Treatment	0.08%	5
Autism Spectrum Disorder	0.44%	26
Agitation Related to Alzheimer's Disease	0.12%	7

4) The number of registrations revoked:

One registration was revoked in accordance with §21-28.6-9 of the Act during the time period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

5) Specializations, if any, of practitioners providing written certification for qualifying patients: PLEASE NOTE: The percentages and patient count data listed below are based upon the total number of currently active patients.

As of June 30, 2020, the specializations of Rhode Island practitioners who provided written certifications were as follows. These percentages are grouped by profession then sorted by patient count per specialty.

Specialty	Number of Patients	Percentage of Total Patients
Internal Medicine	4,308	39.01%
Family Practice	2,840	25.72%
Surgery	379	3.43%
Anatomic Pathology	24	0.22%
Neuropathology-Pathology	2	0.02%
Surgical Critical Care	240	2.17%
Neurology	613	5.55%
Rheumatology	353	3.20%
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	194	1.76%
Medical Oncology	242	2.19%
Hematology	163	1.48%
Psychiatry	147	1.33%
Gastroenterology	66	0.60%
Orthopedic Surgery	66	0.60%
Neurologic Surgery	84	0.76%

Infectious Disease	65	0.59%
Specialty	Number of Patients	Percentage of Total Patients
Obstetrics and Gynecology	56	0.51%
Pulmonary Disease	30	0.27%
Emergency Medicine	56	0.51%
Pediatrics	49	0.44%
Nephrology	34	0.31%
Gynecologic Oncology	13	0.12%
Pediatric Infectious Disease	17	0.15%
Ophthalmology	20	0.18%
Anesthesiology	38	0.34%
Child Neurology	15	0.14%
Pain Management- Anesthesiology	17	0.15%
Critical Care Medicine	1	0.01%
Urology	14	0.13%
Clinical Neurophysiology- Psychiatry & Neurology	11	0.10%
Geriatric Medicine-Internal Medicine	8	0.07%
Radiation Oncology	12	0.11%
Cardiovascular Disease	2	0.02%
Otolaryngology	4	0.04%
Allergy & Immunology	1	0.01%
Child Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	10	0.09%
Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism (IM)- Internal Medicine	2	0.02%
Thoracic Surgery	4	0.04%
Adolescent Medicine	1	0.01%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	1	0.01%
Colon & Rectal Surgery	1	0.01%
Dermatology	1	0.01%
Diagnostic Radiology	1	0.01%
General Preventive Medicine	1	0.01%
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	1	0.01%

6) The number of active qualifying patient, primary caregiver and authorized purchaser registrations as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, there was a total of 19,803 active patient registrations, 803 active caregiver registrations and 867 active authorized purchaser registrations.

7) An evaluation of the costs permitting the use of marijuana for symptom relief, including any costs to law enforcement agencies and costs of any litigation.

RIDOH costs for the Medical Marijuana Program (MMP) for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 was \$319,025.95.

The cost of administration of the Medical Marijuana Program includes four (4) staff dedicated solely to MMP, a percentage of one (1) Health Program Administrator whose duties include oversight of the program; and database, secure photo ID equipment and maintenance costs.

There was no litigation regarding medical marijuana during the 2020 fiscal year.

8) Statistics regarding the number of marijuana-related prosecutions against registered patients and caregivers, and an analysis of the facts underlying those prosecutions.

There were no prosecutions against any registered patients, caregivers or purchasers during the 2020 fiscal year.

9) Statistics regarding the number of prosecutions against physicians for violations of this chapter.

There were no prosecutions against physicians during the 2020 fiscal year.

10) Whether the United States Food and Drug Administration has altered its position regarding the use of marijuana for medical purposes or has approved alternative delivery systems for marijuana.

There has been no change in the FDA position.