



Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097
TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov

September 21, 2017

The Honorable Gina M. M. Raimondo
Governor
State House (Room 224)
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Raimondo,

In accordance with Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act, § 21-28.6-6(l), the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) presents the annual report on the Medical Marijuana Program.

If you have questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact Ana Novais, Executive Director of the RIDOH. She can be reached by phone, at 222-5117, or by email at ana.novais@health.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Alexander-Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "A".

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH
Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health

Medical Marijuana Program Annual Report to the Rhode Island General Assembly

SEPTEMBER 2017



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

Applications for registration as a qualifying patient, primary caregiver, and authorized purchaser made to RIDOH

For the fiscal year July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, RIDOH received 6,515 new applications for registration as patients, caregivers, and/or authorized purchasers.

Applications for registration as a qualifying patient, primary caregiver, and authorized purchaser approved

For the fiscal year July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, RIDOH approved and issued 6,313 registrations for patients, caregivers, and/or authorized purchasers.

Nature of the debilitating conditions of qualifying patients

Practitioner Written Certifications contained notation of at least one of the following debilitating conditions for the time period of July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017:

Note: Many patients have more than one diagnosis code. Therefore, the count of diagnosis codes is higher than the number of patients.

Qualifying debilitating condition	Number of patients	Percentage of total patients
Severe debilitating, chronic pain	4,558	61.61
Severe nausea	922	12.46
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	613	8.29
Cancer or treatment	476	6.43
Severe and persistent muscle spasms	389	5.26
Seizures, including epilepsy	149	2.01
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	104	1.41
Hepatitis C or treatment	77	1.04
Glaucoma or treatment	71	0.96
Positive status for HIV or treatment	25	0.34
AIDS or treatment	11	0.15
Agitation related to Alzheimer’s Disease	3	0.04

Registrations revoked

One registration was revoked in accordance with §21-28.6-9 of the Act during the time period of July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017.

Specializations, if any, of practitioners providing written certification for qualifying patients

Note: This list includes Rhode Island licensed-practitioners only. Practitioners from Massachusetts and Connecticut are not required to be licensed by RIDOH in order to write certifications for the use of medical marijuana; therefore, the Medical Marijuana Program (MMP) has no way to verify their specializations. The percentages and patient count data listed below are based upon the total number of currently active patients.

As of June 30, 2016, the specializations of Rhode Island practitioners who provided written certifications were:

Specialty	Number of patients	Percentage of total patients
Internal Medicine	3,078	21.94%
Family Practice	2,315	16.50%
Surgery	2,119	15.10%
Anatomic Pathology	1,340	9.55%
Neuropathology-Pathology	1,310	9.34%
Surgical Critical Care	1,226	8.34%
Neurology	670	4.78%
Rheumatology	280	2.00%
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	223	1.59%
Medical Oncology	208	1.48%
Hematology	176	1.25%
Psychiatry	107	0.76%
Gastroenterology	102	0.73%
Orthopedic Surgery	68	0.48%
Neurologic Surgery	66	0.47%
Infectious Disease	53	0.38%
Obstetrics and Gynecology	42	0.30%
Pulmonary Disease	42	0.30%
Emergency Medicine	38	0.27%
Pediatrics	34	0.24%
Nephrology	30	0.21%
Gynecologic Oncology	24	0.17%
Pediatric Infectious Disease	23	0.16%
Ophthalmology	22	0.16%
Anesthesiology	20	0.14%
Child Neurology	20	0.14%
Pain Management- Anesthesiology	18	0.13%
Critical Care Medicine	15	0.11%
Urology	13	0.09%
Clinical Neurophysiology-Psychiatry and Neurology	11	0.08%
Geriatric Medicine-Internal Medicine	11	0.08%
Radiation Oncology	10	0.07%
Occupational Medicine	5	0.04%
Cardiovascular Disease	4	0.03%
Otolaryngology	4	0.03%
Allergy and Immunology	3	0.02%
Child Psychiatry-Psychiatry and Neurology	3	0.02%
Endocrinology Diabetes and Metabolism (IM)- Internal Medicine	2	0.01%
Geriatric Medicine- Family Practice	2	0.01%
Thoracic Surgery	2	0.01%

Specialty	Number of patients	Percentage of total patients
Adolescent Medicine	1	0.01%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry- Psychiatry and Neurology	1	0.01%
Colon and 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%

Active qualifying patient, primary caregiver, and/or authorized purchaser registrations as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, there was a total of 18,050 active patient registrations; 2,639 active caregiver registrations; and 206 active authorized purchaser registrations.

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 MMP for the fiscal year July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, were \$694,469.13.

The cost of administration of the MMP included four staff dedicated solely to MMP; a percentage of one Health Program Administrator whose duties include oversight of the MMP and database; and secure photo identification equipment and maintenance costs.

There were no litigation costs regarding medical marijuana during the 2017 fiscal year.

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

There was one Nolo Contendere to manufacture of marijuana.

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

There were no prosecutions against physicians for violations of this chapter during the 2017 fiscal year.

Whether the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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's position.