



2019 MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

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, 2018 to June 30, 2019 RIDOH received 6,181 new applications for registration as patients, caregivers and authorized purchasers.

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

For the fiscal year, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 RIDOH approved and issued 6,276 registrations for patients, caregivers and authorized purchasers.

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, 2018. 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, 2018 to June 30, 2019:

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	61.95%	4037
Severe Nausea	7.89%	514
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	12.00%	782
Cancer or Treatment	6.94%	452
Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms	5.55%	362
Seizures, Including Epilepsy	2.10%	137
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	1.00%	65
Hepatitis C or Treatment	0.55%	36

Glaucoma or Treatment	1.01%	66
Positive Status for HIV or Treatment	0.48%	31
AIDS or Treatment	0.06%	4
Autism Spectrum Disorder	0.34%	22
Agitation Related to Alzheimer's Disease	0.11%	7

4) The number of registrations revoked:

There were no registrations revoked in accordance with §21-28.6-9 of the Act during the time period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

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

PLEASE NOTE: The list includes Rhode Island licensed practitioners only. Massachusetts and Connecticut practitioners are not required to be licensed by RIDOH in order to write certifications for the use of medical marijuana; therefore, the Medical Marijuana Program 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, 2019, the specializations of Rhode Island practitioners who provided written certifications were:

Specialty	Number of Patients	Percentage of Total Patients
Internal Medicine	4,429	37.88%
Family Practice	3,243	27.74%
Surgery	491	4.20%
Anatomic Pathology	26	0.22%
Neuropathology-Pathology	175	1.28%
Surgical Critical Care	301	2.57%
Neurology	651	5.57%
Rheumatology	323	2.76%
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	175	1.50%
Medical Oncology	244	2.09%
Hematology	181	1.55%
Psychiatry	134	1.15%
Gastroenterology	68	0.58%

Orthopedic Surgery	61	0.52%
Neurologic Surgery	87	0.74%
Infectious Disease	51	0.44%
Specialty	Number of Patients	Percentage of Total Patients
Obstetrics and Gynecology	54	0.46%
Pulmonary Disease	32	0.27%
Emergency Medicine	43	0.37%
Pediatrics	37	0.32%
Nephrology	35	0.30%
Gynecologic Oncology	15	0.13%
Pediatric Infectious Disease	33	0.28%
Ophthalmology	24	0.21%
Anesthesiology	236	2.02%
Child Neurology	20	0.17%
Pain Management- Anesthesiology	22	0.19%
Critical Care Medicine	3	0.03%
Urology	16	0.14%
Clinical Neurophysiology- Psychiatry & Neurology	11	0.09%
Geriatric Medicine-Internal Medicine	10	0.09%
Radiation Oncology	12	0.10%
Occupational Medicine	2	0.02%
Cardiovascular Disease	4	0.03%
Otolaryngology	4	0.03%
Allergy & Immunology	2	0.02%
Child Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	8	0.07%
Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism (IM)- Internal Medicine	2	0.02%
Geriatric Medicine- Family Practice	1	0.01%
Thoracic Surgery	5	0.04%
Adolescent Medicine	1	0.01%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	1	0.01%
Colon & Rectal Surgery	1	0.01%
Dermatology	2	0.02%
Diagnostic Radiology	2	0.02%

General Preventive Medicine	1	0.01%
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	2	0.02%

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, 2019, there was a total of 16,218 active patient registrations, 772 active caregiver registrations and 819 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, 2018 to June 30, 2019 was \$608,176.09

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 2019 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 2019 fiscal year.

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

There were no prosecutions against physicians during the 2019 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.