



MEDICAL MARIJUANA
PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY 7/1/2020-6/30/21

SEPTEMBER 2021

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, 2020 to June 30, 2021 RIDOH received 4,456 new patient applications, 180 caregiver applications and 218 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021 RIDOH approved and issued 4,457 patient registrations, 185 caregiver registrations and 220 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. 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021:

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	60.79%	3296
Severe Nausea	7.56%	410
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	16.77%	909
Cancer or Treatment	5.94%	322
Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms	4.17%	226
Seizures, Including Epilepsy	1.88%	102
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	0.72%	39
Hepatitis C or Treatment	0.50%	27

Glaucoma or Treatment	0.53%	29
Positive Status for HIV or Treatment	0.59%	32
AIDS or Treatment	0.06%	3
Autism Spectrum Disorder	0.24%	13
Agitation Related to Alzheimer's Disease	0.09%	5

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, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

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, 2021, 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	4,259	40.05%
Family Practice	2,183	20.53%
Surgery	303	2.85%
Anatomic Pathology	20	0.19%
Surgical Critical Care	257	2.42%
Neurology	557	5.24%
Rheumatology	342	3.22%
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	163	1.53%
Medical Oncology	209	1.97%
Hematology	131	1.23%
Psychiatry	74	0.70%
Gastroenterology	61	0.57%
Orthopedic Surgery	61	0.57%
Neurologic Surgery	75	0.71%
Infectious Disease	66	0.62%

Specialty	Number of Patients	Percentage of Total Patients
Obstetrics and Gynecology	57	0.54%
Pulmonary Disease	29	0.27%
Emergency Medicine	209	1.97%
Pediatrics	52	0.49%
Nephrology	27	0.25%
Gynecologic Oncology	11	0.10%
Pediatric Infectious Disease	7	0.07%
Ophthalmology	13	0.12%
Anesthesiology	15	0.14%
Child Neurology	11	0.10%
Pain Management- Anesthesiology	12	0.11%
Critical Care Medicine	2	0.02%
Urology	20	0.19%
Clinical Neurophysiology- Psychiatry & Neurology	9	0.08%
Geriatric Medicine-Internal Medicine	6	0.06%
Radiation Oncology	10	0.09%
Cardiovascular Disease	2	0.02%
Otolaryngology	6	0.06%
Allergy & Immunology	2	0.02%
Geriatric Psychiatry – Psychiatry & Neurology	4	0.04%
Child Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	4	0.04%
Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism (IM)- Internal Medicine	2	0.02%
Thoracic Surgery	5	0.05%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	2	0.02%
Dermatology	1	0.01%
Diagnostic Radiology	1	0.01%
Occupational Medicine	2	0.02%
Sports Medicine (EM) 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, 2021, there was a total of 19,369 active patient registrations, 652 active caregiver registrations and 675 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021 was \$617,073.80.

The cost of administration of the Medical Marijuana Program includes three (3) 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 2021 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 2021 fiscal year.

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

There were no prosecutions against physicians during the 2021 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.