



MEDICAL MARIJUANA
PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY 7/1/2021-6/30/22

SEPTEMBER 2022

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, 2021 to June 30, 2022 RIDOH received 2,771 new patient applications, 94 caregiver applications and 138 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, 2021 to June 30, 2022 RIDOH approved and issued 2,825 patient registrations, 96 caregiver registrations and 144 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, 2021 to June 30, 2022:

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	57.02%	1836
Severe Nausea	7.33%	236
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	19.07%	614
Cancer or Treatment	7.80%	251
Severe and Persistent Muscle Spasms	3.60%	116
Seizures, Including Epilepsy	1.80%	58
Cachexia or Wasting Syndrome	0.84%	27
Hepatitis C or Treatment	0.34%	11

Glaucoma or Treatment	0.65%	21
Positive Status for HIV or Treatment	0.71%	23
AIDS or Treatment	0.16%	5
Autism Spectrum Disorder	0.40%	13
Agitation Related to Alzheimer's Disease	0.09%	3

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, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

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, 2022, 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	3,658	40.54%
Family Practice	1,636	18.13%
Surgery	277	3.07%
Anatomic Pathology	17	0.19%
Surgical Critical Care	271	3.00%
Neurology	479	5.31%
Rheumatology	293	3.25%
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	129	1.43%
Medical Oncology	199	2.21%
Hematology	125	1.39%
Psychiatry	65	0.72%
Gastroenterology	48	0.53%
Orthopedic Surgery	58	0.64%
Neurologic Surgery	56	0.62%
Infectious Disease	73	0.81%

Specialty	Number of Patients	Percentage of Total Patients
Obstetrics and Gynecology	34	0.38%
Pulmonary Disease	16	0.18%
Emergency Medicine	83	0.92%
Pediatrics	36	0.40%
Nephrology	22	0.24%
Gynecologic Oncology	10	0.11%
Pediatric Infectious Disease	9	0.10%
Ophthalmology	10	0.11%
Anesthesiology	13	0.14%
Child Neurology	9	0.10%
Pain Management- Anesthesiology	12	0.13%
Critical Care Medicine	1	0.01%
Urology	12	0.13%
Clinical Neurophysiology- Psychiatry & Neurology	8	0.09%
Geriatric Medicine-Internal Medicine	8	0.09%
Radiation Oncology	7	0.08%
Otolaryngology	5	0.06%
Allergy & Immunology	1	0.01%
Geriatric Psychiatry – Psychiatry & Neurology	4	0.04%
Child Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	1	0.01%
Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism (IM)- Internal Medicine	2	0.02%
Thoracic Surgery	2	0.02%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry-Psychiatry & Neurology	2	0.02%
Dermatology	1	0.01%
Occupational 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, 2022, there was a total of 16,552 active patient registrations, 472 active caregiver registrations and 539 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, 2021 to June 30, 2022 was \$662,294.25.

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 2022 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 2022 fiscal year.

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

There were no prosecutions against physicians during the 2022 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.