

## Medical Marijuana Program Implementation Status Update

### Patient and Designated Caregiver Applications:

Qualifying patients and designated caregivers will be able to apply for a registry identification card for the North Dakota Medical Marijuana Program starting the morning of October 29, 2018. The division has posted application instructions and other resources to their website so that potential applicants can review the requirements of the application prior to completing and submitting an application.

Designated caregivers are required, by law, to pass a criminal history record check. Information pertaining to this criminal history record check can also be found on the division website. Qualifying patients do **not** have to complete and pass a criminal history record check.

The division is also working on tutorial videos that will walk patients and caregivers through the registration and application process. A video tutorial for health care providers depicting the written certification process will also be available. Reading application instructions and watching tutorial videos will help applicants gain a better understanding of the requirements.

Since the announcement of the October 29 application date for patients and caregivers, the division has received a number of phone calls and would like to clarify some common misconceptions:

- There is no limit to the number of applications the division will accept.
- There are no prescriptions under the Medical Marijuana Program. Rather, the health care provider completes a written certification for the patient.
- The division will not provide a list of health care providers who have signed written certifications (state law does not allow this).
- There is no limit to the number of written certifications a health care provider can sign.
- The division does not certify or approve health care providers who choose to complete a written certification for a patient.
- There is no cost to health care providers to create an account in the division's registration system to complete a written certification.

### **Dispensary Application Period for Grand Forks and Williston Regions Closes:**

The Grand Forks and Williston dispensary application period closed October 10, 2018. In total, the division received 19 applications. The dispensary application review panel will meet the week of November 5 (exact date yet to be determined) to review and score all complete applications. It is anticipated that the selection of the entities eligible to register will occur in mid-November.

### **Dispensary Application Review Panel:**

The review panel that will score complete applications has been established by the Department of Health. The review panel consists of five individuals with varying backgrounds/specialties. These backgrounds include:

- Government
- Law Enforcement
- Pharmacist/Pharmacy Owner
- Physician
- Patient/Family Advocate

All individuals on the review panel are required by administrative rules to sign a conflict of interest form. An individual with a conflict of interest may not participate as a panel member.

### **Laboratory Meetings:**

Dakota State Testing, the lab contracted by the NDDoH to complete required laboratory testing for the Medical Marijuana Program, met with division staff as well as representatives from each manufacturing facility last week. Dakota State Testing presented information regarding the standards set in state law and administrative rules and how they intend to ensure that testing is done accurately, efficiently and safely. Dakota State Testing plans to locate their lab in the Fargo area.

**Question:** What does a bona fide provider-patient relationship mean?

**Answer:** In a nut shell, a bona fide relationship between a health care provider and their patient means that:

- The provider has been taking care of that patient and their debilitating medical condition that qualified them for the Medical Marijuana Program.
- The provider will continue to care for the patient and their debilitating medical condition.
- The relationship between the provider and patient is not for the sole purpose of signing a written certification.

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