
Medical Marijuana Program Implementation Status Update

First Dispensary Opened:

On March 1, the first medical marijuana dispensary in North Dakota opened. The Botanist, operated by Acreage Holdings, is located at 4302 13th Avenue South, Suite 19 in Fargo. Registered patients and designated caregivers can consult with staff at The Botanist and receive educational information prior to making any purchases. All patients and designated caregivers must have a valid registry ID card to enter the display area at the dispensary. The dispensary also requires another form of identification for the initial visit (such as a driver's license).

Pure Dakota, the manufacturing facility in Bismarck, currently offers the dispensary seven different strains of dried leaves and flowers, as well as concentrates including disposable vaping pens (soon with a new design allowing patients to see how much oil remains in the pen). Upon successful compliance testing, the dispensary will also be able to receive two forms of tinctures and a salve.

Work is continuing at dispensary locations in Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Williston. An open application period closed on February 26 for the remaining four dispensary regions.

For more information on the implementation process, view the [implementation snapshot](#).

Health Care Providers:

The Division of Medical Marijuana continues to hear from patients who are unable to find a health care provider willing to complete a written certification. The decision to complete a written certification is the decision of a health care provider. The Division does not provide a list of health care providers who have completed a written certification as such information is confidential under state law.

Division staff continue to reach out to the health care community to provide valuable information regarding the Medical Marijuana Program. The Division encourages any health care facility or individual health care provider to call or email with questions regarding the program or to schedule a presentation. Division staff can be reached via phone at 701.328.1311 or by emailing medmarijuana@nd.gov.

The Division of Medical Marijuana has provided educational information and/or materials regarding the Medical Marijuana Program to the following health-related entities:

UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences~UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines~CHI St. Alexius~Sanford Health Bismarck & Fargo (livestreamed to other locations)~Trinity Health~Essentia Health~Altru Health System~ND Health Information Management Association~North Dakota Nurse Practitioner Association~Mid Dakota Clinic~North Dakota Hospice Organization~Altru Health System nurses ~Nursing Student Association of ND~Mid Dakota Clinic nurses~ND Medical Association~Developmental Disabilities Facilities nurses~NDSU College of Health Professions~Local Public Health Units...and more presentations are planned/scheduled!

Division staff have also reached out to other health care facilities and organizations to offer information regarding the program.

Legislative Update:

The 2019 Legislative Assembly continues to hear testimony and work on several bills related to the Medical Marijuana Program. The Legislature has been made aware of concerns from the medical community about completing a written certification form and has a bill to make changes to state law to address such concerns. Other areas being considered by the Legislature include adding physician assistants to the definition of health care provider, adding to the list of debilitating medical conditions, adding edible products, removing the authorization needed to obtain dried leaves or flowers (thus, allowing all non-minor patients to purchase), allowing an enhanced amount for cancer patients, and removing the 1,000 plant limit at a manufacturing facility to allow facilities to grow to meet patient demand. NO bills related to the program have yet to make it through the entire legislative process.

The Division has been tracking and [providing testimony](#) on numerous bills pertaining to the program. Members of the public can track bills using this [link](#).

ID Cards Issued: The Division has issued over 160 ID cards to qualifying patients. ID cards are valid for one year unless otherwise indicated by the patient's health care provider on the written certification.

Registered qualifying patients and designated caregivers are reminded to ALWAYS have their registry ID card with them when in possession of products purchased from a registered dispensary. A qualifying patient or designated caregiver must provide their registry ID card to a dispensary representative every time a visit to a dispensary occurs (including a visit in the same day). The dispensary also requires another form of identification for the initial visit (such as a driver's license).

Patient and Designated Caregiver Applications:

To begin an application for a registry ID card, please visit the Division of Medical Marijuana website at www.ndhealth.gov/mm. There you will find information regarding the registration system and how to create an account and complete an application.

Individuals who have submitted applications can monitor the status of their application within the system. To review what the different statuses of an application mean, click [here](#).

Question: Where can I see the list of new eligible medical conditions?

Answer: No bills related to the program have yet to make it through the entire legislative process. The Division will provide updates on its website regarding medical marijuana legislation that has been passed and signed by the Governor. Until the Governor signs a passed bill, there are no changes to the law to be implemented.