

Considerations for Issuing Grower, Processor or Dispensary Permits

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West Virginia Medical Cannabis Advisory Board
Charleston, West Virginia
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Office of Medical Cannabis – First Year Work Plan

Objectives	Code Citation
<p>Activity/Action: Establish draft start up organizational structure and long term tentative structure Justification: Required</p>	16A-3-1(a)
<p>Activity/Action: Identify all members of the Advisory Board and convene meeting Justification: Required</p>	16A-11-1
<p>Activity/Action: Draft position description for Office Director and key staff Justification: Required/necessary for Office of Medical Cannabis</p>	16A-3-1(a)
<p>Activity/Action: Conduct cost analysis of implementing Medical Cannabis Act; FY 2019 funds needed through improvement; supplemental FY 2018 funds for personnel and procurement Justification: Required</p>	16A-3-1(a)
<p>Activity/Action: Draft plan for conducting population study (patient health study/survey), oversee implementation and compile results Justification: Required</p>	16A-6-3(d)

Limits on Number of Permits

- Up to 10 growers, however, each grower may have up to two locations per permit.
- Up to 10 processors.
- Up to 30 dispensaries, with no more than five in any region, and not more than two individual dispensary permits to one person.
- Not more than one individual grower permit per person.
- Not more than one individual processor permit per person.

Permit Limitations

- A dispensary may only obtain medical cannabis from a grower or processor holding a valid permit.
- A grower or processor may only provide medical cannabis to a dispensary holding a valid permit.
- A grower or a processor may not be a dispensary.

The Need for Population Study

In issuing permits the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health (BPH) must consider:

- Regional population
- The number of patients suffering from serious medical conditions
- The types of serious medical conditions
- Access to public transportation
- Approval by local health bureaus
- Whether a county has disallowed the location of a grower, processor or dispensary

The Need for Population Study (Cont.)

Why Assess Interest Among Patients and Physicians?

- Provide a better understanding of the potential market for medical cannabis
- Provide anecdotal information about patient interest and physical location
- Obtain insight into the number of physicians interested in certifying patients
- Assist in ensuring patient access when dispensaries are permitted
- Project potential program revenue from physician registrations and patient identification cards
- Gauge the need for outreach and outreach methods

Distribution of Serious Medical Conditions

- In addition to collecting anecdotal, non-scientific information through interest surveys, it is also important that the study include collection of data on the occurrence of serious medical conditions and their distribution.
- This distribution of patients with serious medical conditions as defined by the Act will provide data to the advisory board in its assigned tasks and assist the BPH in ensuring patient access to medical cannabis.

Contact Information

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Methods for Assessing Distribution of Serious Medical Conditions and Medical Cannabis Interest Among Physicians and Patients

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Methodology: Voluntary Survey Data

- Patient survey reviewed for 6th grade literacy
- Pilot tested in rural and urban areas of state
- Design data collection spreadsheets for analyses of data gathered from patients and physicians

Patient Interest Survey

- Patients diagnosed with serious medical conditions as defined in West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act 2017 marketed through social media and press releases
- Link to the survey made available on website:
www.MedCanWV.org
- Team of epidemiologists to compile, clean and analyze data from patients interested in medical cannabis treatment
- Data used to assist with location of medical cannabis dispensaries

Other Patient Data

- Working with Medicaid and PEIA to gather zip code data of clients diagnosed with serious medical conditions as defined in the West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act 2017
- Department of Health and Human Services emPOWER Initiative provides Medicare data by zip code for in-home medical equipment used by patients with serious medical conditions

Provider Interest Survey

- Physicians interested in participating in Medical Cannabis Program located by zip code
- Identify physicians by specialty that treat any of the serious medical conditions defined in law
- Survey emailed by respective licensing boards:
 - West Virginia Board of Medicine
 - West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine
- Team of epidemiologists to compile, clean and analyze data from physicians interested in recommending medical cannabis

How Data Will be Used

- Data collected, cleaned, analyzed and reports prepared for oral presentation to Medical Cannabis Advisory Group by December 31, 2017
- Determine location of regions and medical cannabis dispensaries throughout West Virginia

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