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**Guidance for Law Enforcement Regarding The
Medical Use of Marijuana Online System
("MMJ Online System")**
Updated April 15, 2015

What is the MMJ online system?

The MMJ Online System allows:

- Law enforcement officers to verify patient, caregiver, and Registered Marijuana Dispensary ("RMD") employee ("dispensary agent") registrations;
- Physicians to provide certifications to qualifying patients for the medical use of marijuana;
- Physicians, patients, caregivers, and dispensary agents to register with the Medical Use of Marijuana Program; and
- RMDs to track dispensing activity and verify patient and caregiver registrations.

How does law enforcement access the MMJ Online System?

- Law enforcement officers can access the MMJ Online System through their existing accounts with the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Information System ("CJIS").

How can law enforcement verify whether someone can legally possess marijuana for medical use?

- There are two ways a law enforcement officer can look up a registrant, including patients, caregivers, and dispensary agents.
 - If a registrant presents their Medical Use of Marijuana Program ID Card ("Program ID Card"), the law enforcement officer may enter the registration number printed on the card and the registrant's last name into the system to verify registration status.

- If a registrant does not present an official Program ID Card, a law enforcement officer may enter the registrant's full name, date of birth, mother's maiden name, and registration type (caregiver, patient, or RMD agent) into the system to verify registration status.
- If the individual is listed as "ACTIVE" next to "Status" or "Registration Status", the registrant may possess marijuana for medical purposes. If the individual is listed as "INACTIVE", the registrant may *not* possess marijuana for medical purposes.

What information on patients and caregivers can law enforcement access through the system?

- Name, registration number, registration type (patient or caregiver), and photo of the registrant.
- Whether the registration is currently "ACTIVE". If listed as "ACTIVE", the registrant may possess marijuana for medical purposes. If listed as "INACTIVE", the registrant may *not* possess marijuana for medical purposes.
- The maximum amount of marijuana the registrant is allowed to possess.
- Until DPH begins to process hardship cultivation applications, patients **or** their caregivers may conduct limited cultivation at their primary residence, but may only grow a sufficient amount for their sixty day supply as certified by the patient's physician. They must remain in compliance with all DPH regulations regarding Hardship Cultivation. DPH will announce when applications for Hardship Cultivation Registration will be required for home cultivation.

What information on dispensary agents can law enforcement access through the system?

- Name, registration number, registration type ("RMD Agent"), and photo of the dispensary agent.
- Name and address of the RMD where the dispensary agent works.
- Whether the registration is currently "ACTIVE." If listed as "ACTIVE" the registrant may possess marijuana for medical purposes. If listed as "INACTIVE" the registrant may *not* possess marijuana for medical purposes.

Is DPH issuing registration cards?

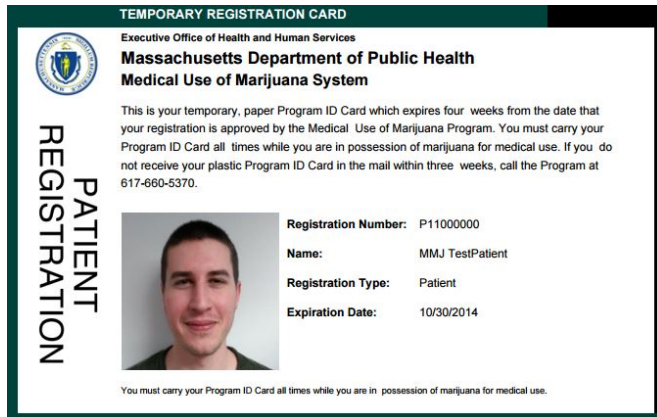
- In October, 2014, DPH began issuing Program ID Cards to qualifying patients, caregivers, and dispensary agents (*see below for images of sample Program ID Cards by registration type*). These Program ID Cards can be used by law enforcement and RMDs to confirm that a patient, caregiver, or dispensary agent is eligible to possess marijuana for medical use.

- Please note when viewing Program ID Cards that the “ID card expiration date” is NOT the date that the individual’s registration expires. Registrations must be renewed annually, whereas new Program ID Cards are issued every three years. To find out whether an individual has an active registration with the Medical Use of Marijuana Program, sign in to CJIS and observe whether the individual has an “ACTIVE” or “INACTIVE” registration status next to “Status” or “Registration Status”.
- Patients, caregivers, and dispensary agents must carry their Program ID Card at all times while in possession of marijuana for medical use.



- A temporary, paper Program ID Card can be printed by the patient, caregiver or dispensary agent at the time of registration for use until their plastic Program ID Card is mailed to them (*see below for image of sample temporary, paper Program ID Card*). This temporary, paper Program ID Card expires 4 weeks from the date the registration is approved by the Program at which time the registrant should have received a plastic Program ID Card.
- If the patient is using a temporary, paper Program ID Card more than 4 weeks from the date of registration, it does not affect their status as an “active registrant,” in CJIS, but the

registrant should contact the Program at 617-660-5370 to report that they have not received their plastic Program ID Card.



Are paper registrations issued by medical providers still valid?

- Effective February 1, 2015, paper certifications from physicians are no longer sufficient for compliance with registration requirements under DPH Marijuana Regulations. All patients, including those currently holding a paper certification, must obtain an *electronic* certification from their physician *and* be registered with the Medical Use of Marijuana Program to possess marijuana for medical use.
- Patients, caregivers, and dispensary agents must carry their Program ID Card at all times while in possession of marijuana for medical use.

How can law enforcement access information that is not provided in the MMJ Online System?

- To initiate a request for information on a registered patient, caregiver, dispensary agent, or RMD that is not provided by CJIS, law enforcement officers may telephone the Medical Use of Marijuana Program at (617) 660-5370. When calling, please have the following information prepared:
 - Name of the law enforcement officer;
 - Title of the law enforcement officer;
 - Name of the law enforcement agency at which the law enforcement officer works;
 - Phone number to contact the law enforcement officer;

- Description of what the law enforcement officer is calling about;
 - The name of the individual the law enforcement officer is inquiring about; and
 - The Medical Use of Marijuana Program registration number of the individual the law enforcement officer is inquiring about (if available).
- No information will be provided to the law enforcement officer until DPH has verified that the request is made pursuant to a legitimate law enforcement inquiry and that information requested may be appropriately disclosed.
- IMPORTANT: Please do not send confidential information to DPH over email, such as any individually identifiable information that reveals the identity of the data subject or is readily identified with the data subject, such as name, address, telephone number, social security number, health identification number, or date of birth; or provides a reasonable basis to believe that the information could be used, either alone or in combination with other information, to identify a data subject.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Medical Use of Marijuana Program at 617-660-5370.