



Dispensary Licensee Newsletter - July 2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

State Operating Budget law

The state operating budget was signed into law on July 4 and included language to establish the Division of Marijuana Control within the Ohio Department of Commerce.

The new Division is tasked with administering the Medical Marijuana Control Program, including the licensing and regulation of medical marijuana cultivators, processors, testing laboratories, and dispensaries, and overseeing the Patient & Caregiver Registry.

The legislation requires the transition of the oversight of dispensaries and the Patient & Caregiver Registry from the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy to the Department of Commerce to be complete by December 31, 2023.

The MMCP will communicate any changes or updates as they happen. Until you are instructed otherwise, dispensaries, patients, and caregivers should continue working with the Board of Pharmacy.

The MMCP will work with all licensees to ensure a smooth transition through engagement, collaboration, and communication during this process. We will provide updates as soon as possible and appreciate your patience.

Irritable Bowel Syndrome Update

On Wednesday, July 12 the State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) voted to add irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) as a qualifying condition to the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program (OMMCP), effective immediately. Physicians can now issue recommendations with irritable bowel syndrome designated as the patient's qualifying condition.

The Patient & Caregiver Registry support team is working to add IBS to the Registry as a qualifying condition. This new condition is expected to appear in the Registry by the end of August 2023.

Adding IBS to the Registry will require a website update. In the meantime, irritable bowel syndrome will be designated as a patient's qualifying condition in the following ways:

- If the patient has more than one qualifying condition, the present condition will appear as the qualifying condition with a notation in the comment box indicating that IBS is also a diagnosis.
- If the patient's only qualifying condition is IBS, a substitute condition will be selected and IBS will be noted as the actual diagnosis in the comment box.

This process will only be needed until the Registry is updated. If you have questions about the Registry, please contact the [Registry support team](#).

Board of Pharmacy Awarded Dispensary Certificates of Operation

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy awarded a Dispensary Certificate of Operation to the following locations:

- The Citizen by Klutch at 401 Cherry Ave. NE, Canton
- Trulieve Medical Marijuana Dispensary at 8295 Sancus Blvd., Columbus
- Shangri-La Dispensary at 100 Clarence F Warner Dr., Monroe

The Board has now issued 94 Dispensary Certificates of Operation.

The [interactive map](#) of Dispensaries with Certificates of Operation is updated.

LICENSING

Medical Marijuana Employee Renewal

The renewal period for Medical Marijuana Dispensary Employees (Associated Key, Key, and Support) has concluded. Individuals who failed to renew before the deadline have expired employee licenses, meaning they cannot work in the dispensary until their license is activated again.

To re-activate their license, they will need to submit a reinstatement application [via the eLicense portal](#). If they haven't sent background check results to the Board within the past 12 months, they will also need to complete new backgrounds. More information on submitting background checks to the Board [can be found here](#).

COMPLIANCE

Multiple Patient Merge Requests

Please follow the below guidance.

Email support@pharmacy.ohio.gov for multiple patient merge requests (do NOT email a specific person).

Be sure to include in the email:

1. Patient full name (and any prior names if they have had a name change)
2. Date of Birth
3. MMID#
4. Copy your dispensary's DR (so if we need to contact the dispensary, we know the specific person)

Please Note - Sending multiple email requests to Support does not expedite your request. If OARRS cannot find the multiple accounts, tickets are placed to Bamboo. Ticket requests can take several days for Bamboo to respond, and then the dispensary causing the issue needs to be contacted in order for Bamboo to fix the issue. This too takes time. OARRS has a very limited staff who also assist prescribers and pharmacists. Your patience is appreciated.

It is the responsibility of the dispensary to contact OARRS for multiple patient requests. Dispensaries should inform the patient that the Board of Pharmacy was contacted to resolve the issue. Please do not instruct the patient to contact OARRS or the Registry (MMCPRegistry@pharmacy.ohio.gov) regarding multiple patient requests.

Multiple patient situations are almost always caused by a preventable error, on the part of the Dispensary entering inaccurate data, such as:

- name and MMID# mismatches
- wrong date of patient birth
- caregiver name entered as the patient's name

* Email only MMCPRegistry@pharmacy.ohio.gov (**NOT** support@pharmacy.ohio.gov) for questions regarding adding indigent or veteran status, caregiver additions such as deletions or updates, or password resets for patient accounts.

Dispensaries may sell a four day quantity when encountering a Multiple Patient prescription history.
