

## Medical Marijuana Program Implementation Status Update (as of 10/30/17)

Over the past several months, the Division of Medical Marijuana has been working on drafting administrative rules for the medical marijuana program. NDCC Chapter 19-24.1 required rules to be established in a number of areas of the program including:

- Transportation and storage of marijuana and usable marijuana;
- Advertising;
- Packaging and labeling;
- Standards for testing;
- Inventory management; and
- Accurate recordkeeping.

The drafting of rules has required a significant amount of time to research, draft, and revise rules based on reviews. The administrative rules are in the final stages of being drafted.

In addition to drafting rules, the Division of Medical Marijuana has been working closely with state procurement and information technology personnel to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an information management system of the medical marijuana program. On November 8, 2017, the RFP will be reviewed and considered by the Executive Steering Committee.

The Division of Medical Marijuana is also in the process of drafting application forms, instructions, and other information related to the registration of up to two manufacturing facilities. A manufacturing facility will be authorized to produce and process and to sell usable marijuana to a dispensary. An open application period will be established for the submission of manufacturing facility applications. The manufacturing facilities will be the first compassion centers to be issued a registration certificate. A separate open application period will be established for the submission of dispensary applications. No date has been established for either open application period as this is dependent upon the effective date of the rules.

For those who are interested in being issued a registration certificate to be a registered grow/manufacturing facility or a registered compassion center, the Division of Medical Marijuana encourages a review of the requirements in NDCC Chapter 19-24.1 be conducted. An open application period may not provide an adequate amount of time for applicants to fulfill requirements in NDCC Chapter 19-24.1. If all requirements are not met by an applicant, the application will not be considered to be complete and thus, will not be reviewed. As an example, manufacturing facility applicants and dispensary applicants will be required to submit evidence of approval from local officials as to the proposed compassion center compliance with local zoning laws. Dependent upon local zoning laws, requirements, meeting schedules, etc., applicants may need more time to obtain approval than the open application period would provide.

The Division of Medical Marijuana will continue to work on a variety of other areas related to implementation of the medical marijuana program including application materials for registry identification cards, policies and procedures, and other program materials. Various means, such as the Division's website and press releases, will be used throughout the implementation process to announce information and progress of implementation. At this time, the Division is accepting no applications for compassion centers or for individuals to obtain their registry identification cards (qualifying patients, designated caregivers, or agents of compassion centers).