Medical Marijuana Registry Program Update
(as of March 31, 2009)

In the November 2000 general election, Coloradoans passed Amendment 20, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) was tasked with implementing and administering the Medical Marijuana Registry program. In March of 2001, the State of Colorado Board of Health approved the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the administration of the program, and on June 1st, 2001, the Registry began accepting and processing applications for Registry Identification cards.

Statistics of the registry include:

- 7,385 new patient applications have been received to date since the registry began operating in June 2001. Thirty-five (35) applications have been denied, 18 cards have been revoked, 157 patients have died, and 1,255 cards have expired, bringing the total number of patients who currently possess valid Registry ID cards to 5,920. The renewal rate is 56%.
- Seventy-one percent of approved applicants are male.
- The average age of all patients is 32. Currently 3 patients are minors (under the age of 18).
- Sixty-two counties (95% of counties) in Colorado have registered applicants. Forty-nine percent of patients reside in the Denver-metro and Boulder area, with the remainder of patients found in counties throughout Colorado.
- Patients on the Registry represent all the debilitating conditions covered under Amendment 20. Severe pain accounts for 88% of all reported conditions; muscle spasms account for the second-most reported condition at 23%.
- Fifty-three percent of patients have designated a primary care-giver (someone who has significant responsibility for managing the patient's care).
- Over 600 different physicians have signed for patients in Colorado.

Please see the attached tables for a complete listing of all statistical information.

As of June 14, 2004 care-givers are no longer issued cards.

As of January 25, 2008 only a portion of the patient's social security number appears on their registration card.

As of October 27, 2008 all applications, renewal and changes to the Registry must be submitted via mail and include a legible photo copy of the patient's Colorado Identification. Faxes and emails will no longer be accepted.

As of December 1, 2008 all changes to the Registry must be signed by the patient making the change in blue ink.

The Amendment requires that an application be approved or denied within 35 days of receipt by CDPHE. Currently, the Registry is issuing ID cards within three weeks of receipt of a complete application.

In addition to administering the Registry, CDPHE has been charged with accepting and reviewing petitions to add conditions to the current list of debilitating medical conditions/symptoms. To date, four petitions have been received, one for Parkinson's disease, one for Asthma, one for Anxiety and another for Bi-Polar Disorder. All petitions were subsequently denied due to lack of scientific evidence that treatment with marijuana might have a beneficial effect.

There have been three marijuana-related convictions of patients on the Registry, and no physicians have experienced federal reprisals. However, reluctance to participate due to the inconsistencies between state and federal marijuana laws has been expressed by doctors and patients alike.

Another barrier to participation on the Registry may be the cost. No general funds have been designated for this program, and the Amendment allows CDPHE to collect fees to cover the administrative costs of administering the program. Currently the fee is $90, and is evaluated annually by CDPHE. The fee was lowered from $110 on June 1, 2007.

Numerous questions have arisen regarding interpretation of statutory language. The law does not clearly state where marijuana plants may be grown or if two or more patients and/or care-givers may share one growing space. Statutory language also places certain burdens upon local and state law enforcement officers, such as the

requirement of keeping alive plants that are confiscated until a resolution is reached (i.e. a decision not to prosecute, the dismissal of charges, an acquittal, etc.).

Table I: County Information

County	Number of Patients	Percent of Patients
Adams	403	7%
Alamosa	7	<1%
Arapahoe	467	8%
Archuleta	19	<1%
Baca	6	<1%
Bent	3	<1%
Boulder	560	19%
Broomfield	48	<1%
Chaffee	33	<1%
Cheyenne	*	*
Clear Creek	17	<1%
Conejos	*	*
Costilla	*	*
Crowley	5	<1%
Custer	5	<1%
Delta	52	1%
Denver	743	13%
Dolores	7	<1%
Douglas	162	3%
Eagle	45	<1%
El Paso	665	11%
Elbert	20	<1%
Fremont	56	<1%
Garfield	44	<1%
Gilpin	33	<1%
Grand	33	<1%
Gunnison	32	<1%
Hinsdale	3	<1%
Huerfano	37	<1%
Jackson	*	*
Jefferson	679	11%
Kit Carson	*	*
La Plata	104	2%
Lake	26	<1%
Larimer	628	11%
Las Animas	19	<1%
Lincoln	*	*
Logan	9	<1%
Mesa	143	2%
Moffat	6	<1%
Montezuma	24	<1%
Montrose	66	1%
Morgan	9	<1%
Otero	28	<1%
Ouray	11	<1%
Park	61	1%
Phillips	7	<1%
Pitkin	8	<1%
Prowers	*	*
Pueblo	115	2%
Rio Blanco	5	<1%
Rio Grande	5	<1%

Routt	17	<1%
Saguache	14	<1%
San Juan	*	*
San Miguel	12	<1%
Sedgwick	*	*
Summit	71	1%
Teller	73	1%
Washington	*	*
Weld	255	4%
Yuma	4	<1%

* Indicates fewer than three patients in each category

Table II: Conditions

Reported Condition	Number of Patients Reporting Condition	Percent of Patients Reporting Condition**
Cachexia	111	2%
Cancer	210	4%
Glaucoma	81	1%
HIV/AIDS	100	2%
Muscle Spasms	1,372	23%
Seizures	226	4%
Severe Pain	5,182	88%
Severe Nausea	1,280	22%

**Does not add to 100% as some patients report using medical marijuana for more than one debilitating medical condition.

Table III: User Characteristics

Sex	Percent on Registry	Average Age**
Male	71%	32
Female	29%	33

** The overall average age of all patients is 32 years old.