

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

**PREFACE**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) is in the process of implementing the state's Medical Marijuana Program, signed into law on April 17, 2016. When fully implemented, the Medical Marijuana Program will provide access to medical marijuana for patients with a serious medical condition through a safe and effective method of delivery that balances patient need for access to the latest treatments with patient care and safety.

**GUIDELINE**

It is the policy of the Department to provide access to patients, ensure safe and effective methods of delivery to patients, and promote high quality research in the implementation of the Medical Marijuana Program. 35 P.S. § 10231.102 (relating to declaration of policy). Further, it has been, and will continue to be, the policy of the Department that it will exercise discretion over the placement of any dispensary to ensure to the best of its ability that the location of additional dispensaries: will provide an adequate amount of medical marijuana to patients and caregivers in all areas of the Commonwealth, and will not negatively impact on the availability of safe and effective medical marijuana in any area of the Commonwealth. An approved clinical registrant may not locate more than three of its approved dispensaries in the same region or in the same county. 28 Pa. Code § 1211.23(c). Additionally, the Department has the authority, in its sole discretion, to deny a permit if issuance of the permit will not be in the best interest of the welfare, health, or safety of the Commonwealth's citizens. 28 Pa. Code 1141.34(9).