

The Department is proposing to amend certain sections of the Medical Cannabis Program rules. There are 5 primary subject areas of the amendments being proposed:

- 1) Removing the non-profit producer confidentiality provision. This change is proposed in the interest of greater transparency, and to conform to the Governor's directive that non-profit producer information be made public. This change will not impact personal production license (PPL) holders, whose information will remain confidential as it is now.
- 2) Amending the courier provisions, to allow couriers to deliver from LNPPs to manufacturers and labs. Currently, couriers can only deliver from LNPPs to patients.
- 3) Making changes to the patient rule to remove certain requirements, including: the requirement (for Department-approved conditions) that an attestation be submitted that standard treatments have failed to bring adequate relief; and the practitioner-specific diagnosis requirements for PTSD, chronic pain, painful peripheral neuropathy, and inflammatory autoimmune-mediated arthritis. The Program previously implemented these changes in response to a court order. These rule changes were also recommended by the Medical Cannabis Advisory Board at its last hearing.
- 4) Removing the heavy metals testing requirement, and references to that requirement. The heavy metals testing standards were adopted by the Department in February of 2015, and identified maximum quantities for arsenic, cadmium and mercury in cannabis and cannabis products. These standards were borrowed from rules recently adopted in other states. Following the adoption of the rules in February, the Department learned that the measurement standard used in the rule ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) is more commonly used for measuring substances in relation to a person's body weight. The Department also learned that measurements at the levels adopted would be extremely difficult if not impossible for a laboratory to detect in cannabis products. The Department is amenable to adopting an alternate standard for testing heavy metals; however, the Department is not aware of an alternate standard that has been successfully utilized elsewhere.
- 5) Requiring that producers identify on their labels the pesticides used in the production of cannabis or cannabis-derived products. This change is proposed in response to complaints received from patients and patient advocates, that non-profit producers have not been forthcoming regarding the pesticides that they use.