



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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MEDCHI SURVEY EXPLORES CANNABIS RECOMMENDERS OFFERING TELEHEALTH SERVICES

BALTIMORE, November 4, 2021 – Throughout the past year, the MedChi Cannabis Committee has continued its work on education, policy, and issues related to the use of medical cannabis in a responsible manner. Due to the toll of the coronavirus pandemic more physicians than ever have been turning to telemedicine as an option for seeing and treating patients. While MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, does not take an official position on recommending medical cannabis or on telemedicine regarding medical cannabis, MedChi’s Cannabis Committee conducted a survey to determine what, if any, position MedChi should take on cannabis and telehealth.

260 Maryland physicians spanning 20 different specialties were surveyed about recommending medical cannabis and the use of telemedicine surrounding medical cannabis. All the physicians surveyed are licensed medical cannabis recommenders.

Of those surveyed:

- 94% recommend medical cannabis to patients
- 87% feel the allowance of medical cannabis telehealth during the pandemic emergency helped their patients and managing their care
- Almost 60% used telehealth appointments for both new and renewal appointments
- 76% think telehealth should continue to be used for initial visits for medical cannabis recommendation and 92% think telehealth should continue to be used for medical cannabis renewals

The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (the “Commission”) provided a bulletin to update certifying health care practitioners and patients on temporary certification practices permissible during the COVID-19 state of emergency. That bulletin allowed a certifying health care practitioner who is registered with the Commission to provide a written certification to a qualifying patient via telehealth under limited circumstances. It applied to an initial written certification and a written certification renewal. The bulletin was extended after the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency was rescinded and the Commission is considering a new policy. If the Commission does not make a policy change, we will revert to the law that was in place prior to the bulletin allowing for telehealth.

Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO, states “the recent survey revealed that medical cannabis recommenders overwhelmingly believe that cannabis telehealth has been beneficial to their patients and should continue to be permitted.”

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.