

Patient FAQs

The Medical Marijuana Assistance Program (MMAP)

Phase 3 and Phase 3 pilot: Monthly Financial Benefit for

PACE/PACENET Patients

1. What is MMAP Phase 3?

- a. Phase 3 of the MMAP will distribute a monthly financial benefit to patients registered in a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Commonwealth) financial hardship program. These financial hardship programs include:
 - Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
 - Medicaid
 - Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE)
 - PACE Needs Enhancement Tier (PACENET)
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

2. Will MMAP Phase 3 be available in all dispensaries?

- a. Yes, all PA permitted Dispensaries are expected to be able to serve and dispense to any registered patient, including those eligible for MMAP Phase 3.
- b. Section 902 of Act 16 of 2016 requires the Department of Health (Department) to implement a program from funds in the Medical Marijuana Program Fund to assist financial hardship patients, including the development of guidelines and procedures. See 35 P.S. Section 10231.9 02(c)(1)(i). MMAP Phase 3 is the implementation of this program.
- c. Notably, the Department’s use of “pilot” is to signal to the medical marijuana community that this is the first step in implementation of the MMAP Phase 3 program.

3. What is the MMAP Phase 3 pilot?

- a. As an initial step to ensure that the MMAP Phase 3 program efficiently serves financial hardship patients at every dispensary across the Commonwealth, the Office of Medical Marijuana (Office) is launching a pilot program to implement MMAP’s Phase 3.
- b. The Phase 3 pilot of the MMAP will distribute a \$50 monthly financial benefit to patients registered in and who selected PACE/PACENET as their financial hardship program to reduce the fee of their medical marijuana identification (ID) card.

4. Why are we starting with a pilot?

- a. Current law dictates the percentage of Medical Marijuana revenue that can be dedicated to fund the MMAP and, current funding only allows for a subset of financial hardship patients to receive a monthly financial benefit. As a result of the funding constraints, the Office is launching a pilot program to implement MMAP’s Phase 3.
- b. Additionally, this pilot will familiarize dispensaries on MMAP’s new system and procedures.

5. Why are we giving patients \$50 per month?

- a. Patients spend an average of over \$275 per month on medical marijuana. Ideally, the Office would like to be able to give each financial hardship patient that amount monthly. Unfortunately, the available funding does not make that a realistic option.
- b. The \$50 per month amount represents an average price for 5 to 6 days of medication, and therefore, can make a significant difference in the lives of MMAP patients while providing a benefit to a greater number of participants.
- c. Keep in mind, the Office also will continue to distribute benefits for the first two phases of MMAP and had to build the infrastructure and support systems required for Phase 3, and, moving forward will have to maintain them. This is all required to be allocated from the same fund.

6. Why was PACE/PACENET selected as the financial hardship program for the pilot?

- a. Funding is currently not sufficient to allocate a benefit to all financial hardship patients.
- b. Given the complicated technical infrastructure of the MMAP program, using a single financial hardship program for the pilot allows the Office to offer meaningful relief to all participants in that financial hardship program.
- c. Given the current budget, PACE/PACENET was the only financial hardship program that allows the Office to serve all the participants in that program.

7. When will MMAP be expanded to include all hardship programs?

- a. The infrastructure required to expand the program is in place. Expanding this program to additional participants is dependent on the funding that will be allocated to the program in the future.

8. How many patients do you anticipate being awarded financial benefits through the pilot?

- a. The expected number of patients to be awarded benefits for the remainder of this fiscal year (through June 2023) is between 1,000 and 3,000.

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9. When will the pilot be implemented?

- a. The pilot is targeted to launch in the Fall of 2022.

10. How will dispensaries know I am an MMAP patient?

- a. Patients will not need to provide any additional information at the dispensary to be identified as an MMAP Phase 3 participant. If a patient is eligible to receive MMAP Phase 3 benefits, the patient's medical marijuana ID card will automatically indicate the patient's eligibility when it is scanned at the point of sale.

11. How will my MMAP benefit work at the dispensary?

- a. When a patient's medical marijuana ID card is scanned at the point of sale, the system will identify whether the patient is an MMAP participant
- b. If the patient wishes to use their available MMAP funds, the Dispensary will use a tool to determine how much funding the patient has available to them.
- c. After the benefit is applied any leftover balance is payable by the patient.

12. If a patient uses the MMAP benefit, do they lose any other discounts and savings?

- a. No. The MMAP benefit is to be applied ONLY after all other discounts and savings programs are applied to the patient's order.

13. Will patients receive a financial benefit every month?

- a. Yes. If the patient continues to participate in the medical marijuana program and is eligible for MMAP Phase 3, they will continue to receive a monthly financial benefit.

14. Can patients save their financial benefit or allow it to rollover month-to-month?

- a. A patient's balance will rollover up to 12 months from when they paid their annual fee. After the 12-month period, any unused benefits that remain will be forfeited.

15. How much of a financial benefit will patients receive each month?

- a. For the remainder of this fiscal year (through June 2023), the budget will allow MMAP Phase 3 pilot patients to receive \$50 per month as a financial benefit.

16. If I am in the MMAP Phase 3 pilot, when will I received my MMAP financial benefit each month?

- a. Your benefit will be made available to you monthly, on or about the anniversary date of when you selected PACE/PACENET as your financial hardship program to reduce your annual medical marijuana fee.
- b. Example: If you signed the attestation and selected PACE/PACENET on March 15, your funds will be made available on or about the 15th of each month, after the MMAP Phase 3 pilot begins disbursing funds.
- c. Patients can also log into their patient account to check this date:
 - i. Login here: <https://padohmmp.custhelp.com/app/login>
 - ii. After login, select the "Profile Settings" Tab.
 - iii. There is a box at the top of your Profile Settings titled "Current ID Card Information."
 - iv. Look for your "Annual Fee Due Date" The day of the month here is when you can expect to receive your monthly disbursement.
 - EXAMPLE: If your Annual Fee Due Date is 3/2/2023, you can expect to receive your monthly disbursement on or about the 2nd of each month.

17. What can patients use their monthly financial benefit for at the dispensary?

- a. Patients can use their monthly financial benefit on all forms of medication permitted under their patient certification.
- b. Patients cannot use their financial benefits for devices or accessories.

18. Can patients check their own balance?

- a. For balance inquiries, a patient can either call the dedicated helpdesk or at the time of sale, request the dispensary provide the balance.

19. Where can I go for support if something doesn't seem right or if I have other questions?

- a. If you have MMAP related questions, please call the dedicated MMAP helpdesk for assistance at 833-605-0628 Monday through Friday from 9am till 5pm.