Arizona Department of Health Services

Office of the Director

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JANICE K. BREWER, GOVERNOR
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Dear Arizona Physician,

The Arizona Medical Marijuana Program, at the Arizona Department of Health Services, has now been certifying qualified patients for over a year. The Department's primary goal is to maintain a true medical marijuana program, by setting expectations for clinical assessment and medical record review required by physicians in order to write a medical marijuana certification.

Since the Program has been implemented, the Department, in conjunction with each of the licensing boards, has been monitoring the types and numbers of certifications written by physicians. As required by statute, the Department recently released the first required Annual Report for the Arizona Medical Marijuana Program. In this report, we identified the need for educational opportunities for the Program's physician certifiers.

ADHS believes it is important to engage the state's program participants to provide education and information about the Program. As you manage debilitating conditions in your patients, we believe it is important for you to be informed about the requirements of the program. To assist you, the Department will be offering several free trainings and CME opportunities. We are currently working with each of the licensing boards. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to work with the Department and continue the effective implementation of the AZ Medical Marijuana Program.

The Department has worked with the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health to develop a 5 hour free online CME course. This course is available on our website at: www.azdhs.gov/medicalmarijuana/physicians/. We will also be offering a more in-depth in person training regarding the Arizona Medical Marijuana Program, and you will soon receive an invitation to that event.

We appreciate your participation in the program and your support in keeping Arizona's medical marijuana program a truly medical program.

Sincerely,

C M. Cht MD

Cara Christ, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Cc: Gail Anthony, Deputy Director, Arizona Naturopathic Medical Board