

Policy Statement: Prescribing of Cannabis is not supported

Mid-Essex Clinical Commissioning Group does not support the prescribing of Cannabis in primary care for any indication.

Cannabis is a broad term to describe organic products (e.g. marijuana and hemp) that contain amongst other chemicals, CBD (Tetrahydrocannabinol) and THC (Cannabidiol).

THC is the principal psychoactive component of cannabis and is subject to the highest level of control under UK medicines legislation. Cannabis is classified as a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, based on a harms assessment.

The government has announced that medicinal cannabis can be legally prescribed to patients from 1st November 2018. The decision to prescribe unlicensed medicinal cannabis products must be made by a specialist doctor listed on the General Medical Council's specialist register. However, cannabis will remain illegal when used for recreational purposes, and there will be no changes to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 classification of cannabis or any of the penalties for illicit offences related to cannabis.

Recommendations:

- **Do not prescribe cannabis in primary care – including unlicensed or any future licensed cannabis products.**
- The Home Office have stated that the decision to prescribe these unlicensed medicinal cannabis products from 1st November 2018 must be made by a specialist doctor listed on the GMC specialist register – not a GP or GP with Specialist Interest. The specialist must make decisions on prescribing cannabis-based products for medicinal use on a case-by-case basis, and only when the patient has an unmet special clinical need that cannot be met by licensed products.
- Medicinal cannabis is **NOT suitable for shared care.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-that-medicinal-cannabis-is-legal>

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