

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No. TVPC81

Prescribing of cannabis-based medicinal products:
Interim statement

Recommendation made by
Priorities Committee

November 2018, January 2021¹

Date of issue:

March 2021

Thames Valley Priorities Committee has reviewed the evidence and national guidance² for the use of cannabis-based medicinal products.

- In line with NICE guidance, cannabis-based medicinal products including: nabilone; dronabinol; THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol); a combination of cannabidiol (CBD) with THC; are **not normally funded for chronic pain**.
- In line with NICE guidance the prescribing of nabilone is **supported for the management of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting** which persists with optimised conventional antiemetics for adults 18 years and over.
- Based on estimated local clinical demand, Thames Valley CCGs consider the prescribing of THC:CBD spray (Sativex®) in line with NICE guidance for spasticity in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) to be unaffordable.
- The prescribing of THC:CBD spray (Sativex®) is **only supported for adults with MS with severe spasticity, whose only remaining option for the management of spasticity is intrathecal baclofen**.
- After the initial prescription, subsequent prescriptions of cannabis-based medicinal products may be issued by another prescriber as part of a shared care agreement under the direction of the initiating specialist prescriber, if:
 - shared care is appropriate and in the person's best interest
 - the person's clinical condition is stable
 - the other prescriber is confident to make a fully informed prescribing decision about cannabis-based medicinal products

¹ Updated to reflect TVPC discussions and recommendations as a result of publication of NICE guideline NG144 (2019) Cannabis-based medicinal products

² NICE guideline NG144 (2019) Cannabis-based medicinal products

- NHS England is the responsible commissioner for the following NICE Technology Appraisal Guidelines:
 - Cannabidiol with clobazam for treating seizures associated with Dravet syndrome Technology appraisal guidance [TA614]
 - Cannabidiol with clobazam for treating seizures associated with Lennox–Gastaut syndrome Technology appraisal guidance [TA615]
- The prescribing of all other cannabis-based medicinal products is **not normally funded**.

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g., from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/>