

Excluded: Procedure not routinely funded

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No. TVPC81 Prescribing of cannabis-based products for medicinal use

Recommendation made by November 2018 - Interim statement
Priorities Committee Review date November 2019

Date of issue: February 2019

Cannabis-based products for medicinal use are defined within the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (2001)¹. From the 1st November the government has rescheduled some of these products from schedule 1 to schedule 2 which allows them to be legally prescribed.

The Department of Health and Social Care² has chosen to restrict the decision to prescribe cannabis-based products for medicinal use to only those clinicians listed on the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council.

Thames Valley CCGs have decided that due to the lack of evidence based national guidance and their unlicensed nature, the prescribing of these products will **not normally be funded** until further national advice has been received.

Patients should not be referred into services solely for the prescribing of cannabis based products for medicinal use.

The prescribing of these products will be reviewed following publication of NICE guidance which is expected in 2019.

This policy statement applies to the unlicensed schedule 2 cannabis based products for medicinal use and licensed preparations including Sativex® and Nabilone®. See current South Central Priorities Committees Policy Statements 147; 94: Cannabinoids in the Management of Multiple Sclerosis and Chronic Pain.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/1055/regulation/3/made>

² <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/letter-guidance-on-cannabis-based-products-for-medicinal-use..pdf>

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/>