



# Information for your doctor

## About medicinal cannabis

Medicinal cannabis may be prescribed in any form (e.g. oils, capsules, flower, spray) by a doctor for specific medical purposes. Doctors and patients may prefer one format over another, for example the oil format is currently the most prescribed medical cannabis format in Australia.

Medicinal cannabis may be suitable for patients that have exhausted medicine options. The TGA notes as with all therapies, medical practitioners must exercise their professional judgment in determining the appropriate medicine for an individual patient.

At this time the TGA suggest that the use of medicinal cannabis may be considered only when registered medicines have been tried and proven unsuccessful in managing the patient's symptoms or medical condition.<sup>3</sup>

Visit [www.bodpharmaceuticals.com](http://www.bodpharmaceuticals.com) for more information.

## TGA approved indications for medicinal cannabis prescriptions

Like other unapproved medicines, unapproved medicinal cannabis is prescribed through TGA Special Access Scheme, Authorised prescribers or Clinical Trials. To date, the TGA has approved medicinal cannabis for indications including, but not limited to:<sup>2</sup>

- Chronic pain, including cancer and neuropathic pain
- Chemotherapy-induced symptoms including nausea and vomiting
- Muscle spasticity and tremors, including epilepsy and Parkinson's disease
- Palliative care
- Autism and attention deficit disorders
- Anxiety

For scientific reviews on the evidence visit [www.bodpharmaceuticals.com](http://www.bodpharmaceuticals.com)

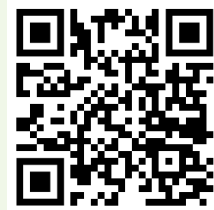
## Prescribing medical cannabis

Any medical doctor is eligible for prescribing medicinal cannabis products to an individual patient through the TGA Special Access Scheme.<sup>4</sup>

Some doctors prefer to become Authorised Prescribers to prescribe the same medicinal cannabis for the same condition to a number of patients.<sup>5</sup>

Many doctors also opt into 'Shared-Care', sharing the patient care with a doctor specifically trained and experienced in using medicinal cannabis.

For more information on medicinal cannabis go to [bodpharmaceuticals.com](http://bodpharmaceuticals.com)



### References:

1. Alcohol and drug Foundation. Medicinal cannabis. Available online: <https://adf.org.au/drug-facts/medicinal-cannabis/> [Accessed Feb 2020].
2. Australian Government. Department of Health. Therapeutic Goods Administration. Access to medicinal cannabis products. Available online: <https://www.tga.gov.au/access-medicinal-cannabis-products-1> [Accessed Mar 2020].
3. Australian Government. Department of Health. Therapeutic Goods Administration. Medicinal cannabis - guidance documents. Available online: <https://www.tga.gov.au/medicinal-cannabis-guidance-documents> [Accessed Mar 2020].
4. Australian Government. Department of Health. Therapeutic Goods Administration. Special Access Scheme. Available online: <https://www.tga.gov.au/form/special-access-scheme> [Accessed Mar 2020].
5. Australian Government. Department of Health. Therapeutic Goods Administration. Authorised Prescribers. Available online: <https://www.tga.gov.au/form/authorised-prescribers> [Accessed Mar 2020].

# Considerations when selecting a Medicinal Cannabis for your patient



Every Cannabis plant produces a distinct effect depending on the plant species and cultivar which dictates the ratio of active constituents.

How it is cultivated, harvested, manufactured, stored and formulated further determines its stability and efficacy.

Consider these important questions before trialling a Medicinal Cannabis to support your patient.

What safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics testing has been conducted on the medicine?

Is the medicine produced under strict pharmaceutical GMP?

What research has been conducted on the medicine, and to what quality is the research?

What evidence is held for batch-to-batch consistency?

What is the source of the plant?



Contact us for further information.

Training for Healthcare professionals is available on request.

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