Fact Sheet

Medicinal Cannabis Products

Cannabis for human therapeutic use is regulated as a medicine in Australia. The term 'medicinal cannabis products' covers a range of cannabis preparations intended for therapeutic use, including pharmaceutical cannabis preparations, such as oils, tinctures and other extracts.

Some examples of medicinal cannabis products that may be available through approved suppliers in Australia are listed below. Products must be legally produced and manufactured to appropriate quality standards. Commonwealth approval to supply, and where necessary import a medicinal cannabis product is granted by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the Office of Drug Control (ODC).

Product	Australian Medicines Schedule/Registration	South Australia[1]	Commonwealth [2]
Dronabinol (Marinol®, Syndros®, US FDA approved medicine) Nabilone (Cesamet®, US FDA approved medicine) Tablet/capsule form.	Schedule 8. Unregistered synthetic/analogue cannabinoid products.	An authority issued under section 18A of the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* may be required.[1]	TGA Special Access Scheme or Authorised Prescriber Scheme or Clinical Trials Schemes.
Nabiximols (Sativex®) Oral spray form.	Schedule 8. The only registered cannabinoid product in Australia - for symptom improvement in multiple sclerosis.	An authority issued under section 18A of the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* may be required.[1]	Registered on the ARTG – approved product.
Cannabidiol in preparations for therapeutic use where cannabidiol comprises 98 per cent or more of the total cannabinoid content of the preparation.	Schedule 4. Unregistered cannabidiol products. Refer to the Poisons Standard for detail on Schedule 4 listing.	A section 18A authority is not required for Schedule 4 medicines.	TGA Special Access Scheme or Authorised Prescriber or clinical trials schemes.
Medicinal cannabis products containing tetrahydrocannabinol, cannabidiol and other cannabinoids in varying strengths and forms available through approved suppliers.	Schedule 8. Unregistered cannabinoid products derived from the cannabis plant. Refer to the Poisons Standard for detail on Schedule 8 listing.	An authority issued under section 18A of the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* may be required.[1]	TGA Special Access Scheme or Authorised Prescriber Scheme or clinical trials schemes.

[1] A section 18A authority to prescribe a Schedule 8 controlled drug (drug of dependence) is required after two months of treatment (or before commencing treatment where the person is already prescribed another Schedule 8 drug for a period exceeding two months), or before commencing treatment for any person the medical practitioner reasonably believes to be dependent on drugs.

A section 18A authority is not required for patients:

- aged 70 years or older
- Notified Palliative Care Patients

[2] A single application to satisfy both SA and Commonwealth requirements can be made via the TGA SAS Online system.

For more information

Medicines and Technology Programs
Department of Health and Wellbeing
SA Health
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/medicinalcannabis

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