

REFER OR PRESCRIBE MEDICAL CANNABIS WITH TETRA HEALTH



Step One Refer Your Patient

Refer your patient to a Tetra Health Physician using the Referral Form on our website. You may include a Health Summary or supporting documentation.

Step Two Nurse Assessment

A Tetra Nurse will contact your patient in 24 hours to perform a detailed assessment. This includes screening for contraindications and drug interactions.

Step Three TGA Approval

A Tetra Physician will consult with your patient and apply to the TGA/State Authority. Once approved, the Physician will send their prescription to their pharmacy.

Step Four Progress Report

A Tetra Nurse monitors your patient and send regular progress reports for your records. This includes details on medication prescribed and patient outcomes.

Why Work With Tetra?

- ◆ CPD Accredited Training
- ◆ Access to 30+ Medications
- ◆ Compassionate rates
- ◆ Assistance with Prescribing
- ◆ Nurse Supported Treatment
- ◆ 1800 Support Line

Contact Diandra Phipps on +61 414 427 558 for more information or if you are interested in prescribing medical cannabis.

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My experience has been very stress free. The medical and support staff are prompt, professional, and organised. I had been dreading applying but it was managed for me, and a great stress off my mind. Thank you.

- Chole B, QLD



Tetra provides me with administrative assistance and nursing support, minimising my efforts on routine tasks. The addition of medicinal cannabis in my practice has reduced opiate prescribing and my patients report an improved quality of life and are in more control of their symptoms.

-Prof Stephen Clarke

Physician FAQ

What you need to know

Is the patient a candidate for medicinal cannabis treatment?

Currently in Australia, patients are only eligible for medicinal cannabis if they have a chronic condition and they have trialled conventional pharmaceutical drugs and experience adverse effects, or their symptoms are not fully controlled. Cannabis is **not** a first line therapy. Medicinal cannabis may be helpful with the **management of symptoms** associated with a wide variety of conditions such as:

- Alzheimer's disease
- Arthritis
- Anxiety
- Cancer
- Crohn's disease
- Chronic pain
- Dementia
- Endometriosis
- Epilepsy
- Fibromyalgia
- Gastrointestinal disorders (IBS, IBD)
- Harm reduction
- Multiple sclerosis
- Neuropathic Pain
- Nausea & vomiting
- Sleep disorders
- Parkinson's disease
- Palliative Symptoms
- PTSD
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Wasting syndrome and loss of appetite

Is medicinal cannabis legal?

Yes. In 2016, the TGA reclassified medicinal cannabis products containing THC from Schedule 9 (Prohibited) to Schedule 8 (Controlled), making the prescription of medicinal cannabis containing THC legal in Australia. CBD products (which have less than 2% of any other active component) remain at Schedule 4, and have much less restriction than Schedule 8 products. A patient must receive a prescription from a medical practitioner through nominated schemes to legally access medicinal cannabis.

Am I able to prescribe medicinal cannabis?

There is no special license or any restrictions imposed by the TGA on a medical practitioner prescribing medicinal cannabis for their patient, as long as there is sufficient clinical justification for use. All patients must sign a consent form for treatment acknowledging that medicinal cannabis is in experimental phase in Australia and that there are potential risks, adverse effects and unknown long-term use side effects.

What are the benefits of working with Tetra Health?

Tetra Health and our partners have assisted over 50,000 global patients in accessing medicinal cannabis treatment. Tetra Health believes in providing healthcare providers with education and resources to offer complimentary assistance to their patients. We provide optional training, clinical decision tools, administrative and management support, access to nurse specialists and detailed progress reports.

Medicinal cannabis is distinct from other prescription medication for a variety of reasons. Variables like genetics, biochemistry, nutrient deficiencies, gender, tolerance and drug interactions affect how a human metabolises cannabinoids, thereby affecting dose requirements and a patients overall response to cannabinoid medications. We offer patients personalised treatment plans, ongoing monitoring, a telephone support line and a diverse selection of cannabinoid medications.

What medicines do you have available for patients?

Tetra Health works with a number of preferred suppliers that are authorised by the TGA and the Office of Drug Control to manufacture and supply medicinal cannabis products in Australia. All of these suppliers meet the TGO93 quality assurance standards and are Good Manufacturing Practice certified. We ensure that the patient receives the best medication for their symptoms for the lowest cost and highest quality.

How do patients access cannabinoid medicines?

Medicinal cannabis products are available through “unapproved product” pathways for both imported and locally grown product as they are not registered medicines (other than Sativex). Under the Authorised Prescriber Scheme, the TGA is able to grant medical practitioners authority to prescribe a specified therapeutic good or class of therapeutic goods to specified recipients or classes of recipients. Approval from an appropriate Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) must be submitted and most States have additional submission requirements.

Under the TGA’s Special Access Scheme (SAS) (Category A/B), Medical practitioners must provide clinical evidence that justifies the use, efficacy and safety data, a list of standard medicine or non-medicine treatments that have been used or failed, information on patient monitoring and evidence of positive benefit to justify continued use. Tetra assists physicians with requirements to prepare SAS applications for their patients.

As at 30 July 2018, an online system was introduced to enable the lodgement of SAS applications and notifications. This SAS online system allows prescribers in NSW, QLD, VIC, WA, ACT and SA to submit an application to both the Commonwealth and the relevant State/Territory Health Department simultaneously. Prior to the introduction of this system, prescribers of unapproved medicinal cannabis products were required to complete and separately submit paper forms to the TGA and relevant State Health Department. Should all requirements be met, current processing time for approval by the TGA and State approvals can be between 24 hours and 2 weeks, depending on state. Should a patient/physician wish to access more than one medication, the prescriber may submit more than one SAS approval form.

How are cannabinoid medications taken?

Medicinal cannabis medicines in Australia are typically diluted in cannabis oil and administered via an oral spray, sublingually (drops under the tongue), capsules, or by vaporising the dried flower. There are many other medical applications for medicinal cannabis that are not yet available legally in Australia, including suppositories, topicals and tinctures that patients could be accessing through the “black market”.

Is there a difference between recreational cannabis and medicinal cannabis?

There are a number of differences between recreational cannabis and legal, medicinal cannabis. The first being that medicinal cannabis products in Australia are upheld to quality and safety standards under the Therapeutic Goods Order No. 93 where cannabinoid content (THC and CBD), contamination, toxins, and pesticides are vigorously analysed. Recreationally purchased cannabis may contain impurities and harmful contaminants. It is estimated that over 100,000 patients are accessing illegal cannabis from the black market in Australia for medical reasons. As a medical patient, access to safe medicine of the highest quality is critical to ensure best outcomes for treatment success.