

Prescribing of Cannabis Sativa Extract (Sativex®) is not supported in Primary Care

Cannabis sativa extract is a cannabinoid containing oromuscosal spray, licensed as an adjunct in moderate to severe spasticity in multiple sclerosis and should not be prescribed in primary care.

Rationale

- Although cannabis sativa extract is licensed to treat spasticity in multiple sclerosis, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) does not recommend it for this indication as it is not cost-effective. NICE guidance for multiple sclerosis in adults offers alternative treatment options for spasticity.
- NICE does not recommend cannabis sativa extract to treat neuropathic pain in non specialist settings and it is not licensed for use in neuropathic pain. It should therefore not be routinely prescribed. In South West Essex this drug is for hospital specialist use only; it must not be prescribed in primary care.

Sativex® is the only licensed cannabis product. Cannabis is not licensed for the treatment of any other conditions except as stated above.

Cannabis should therefore not be prescribed in primary care in any form or for any condition.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

Position Statement No.	37
Title	Prescribing of cannabis sativa extract
References	NICE CG 186 Multiple sclerosis in adults: management. https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG186 . National institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance Do Not Do Recommendations. https://www.nice.org.uk/savingsandproductivity/collection?page=1&pagesize=2000&type=do%20not%20do NICE CG173 - Neuropathic Pain in adults: pharmacological management in non specialist setting. https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/cg173
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Author	Medicines Management Team
Approved by	Basildon and Brentwood CCG: Prescribing Subgroup, Patient Quality and Safety Committee, Board Thurrock CCG: Medicines Management and Safety Group, Patient Quality and Safety Committee, Transformation and Sustainability Committee, Board
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