NPS MEDICINEWISE

Medicinal cannabis: process for dispensing

Check if you can dispense medicinal cannabis

- ✓ Most states and territories allow community pharmacies to dispense medicinal cannabis (MC) prescriptions
- ✓ Pharmacists with full AHPRA registration and no undertakings on their practice may dispense Schedule 8 (S8) MC prescriptions

Prepare to dispense

- ✓ The pharmacy and pharmacist must check for any state/territory health department specific requirements or approvals they must meet before handling and dispensing MC prescriptions
- ✓ The pharmacy and pharmacist must meet all usual requirements for handling controlled S8 medicines in order to dispense S8 MC prescriptions

Review the prescription

Check:

- ✓ The MC prescription is authentic and approved by Australian Government and state/territory health departments (if required)
- ✓ Any precautions or contraindications using MC with patient's medical and medication history
- ✓ For an unregistered MC prescription, the product, manufacturer and sponsor are identifiable on the approved forms ie, Special Access Scheme (SAS)/ Authorised Prescriber (AP), as completed by the prescriber
- ✓ Manufacturers and sponsors are listed on the Office of Drug Control (ODC) website
- ✓ The patient is aware and willing to pay the costs associated with the MC product.

Order the approved product

- ✓ Order the registered MC product eg, Sativex (nabiximols)
- ✓ Order the unregistered MC product through approved local manufacturer or sponsor identified from the ODC website
- ✓ If the product is not available through a sponsor, apply for a licence and a permit from ODC to order and import the product directly from an overseas manufacturer

Store, dispense, record and report

- ✓ Store the MC product from time of receipt until collection as per the schedule requirement
- ✓ Review the use of the MC product with the patient as you would with any other medicine and counsel on safe and appropriate use as prescribed
- ✓ Refer patients to Medicines Line if they require further information about MC
- ✓ Record and report appropriately as specified by the state/ territory regulation

Monitor patient and feed back to prescriber

- ✓ Monitor patients for clinical and adverse effects
- ✓ Feed back to prescriber as required
- ✓ Refer patients to the Adverse Medicine Events Line or report any adverse events on the TGA website
- ✓ It is a requirement of TGA Special Access Scheme category B approval for unregistered cannabis medicines that any events, including anticipated adverse events, are reported to the TGA and the sponsor by the prescriber within 15 calendar days
- ✓ For more information visit TGA Special Access Scheme: Guidance for health practitioners and sponsors. 2017

nps.org.au/medicinal-cannabis