



1 in 20

New Zealanders
are now using
medicinal
cannabis¹

A recent UMR poll showed 76% support for a law change allowing doctors to prescribe cannabis, and 61% support for treating cannabis as a herbal remedy when used therapeutically.²

A survey of NZ doctors found one in five know they have patients who are using cannabis medicinally, and many more would consider prescribing medicinal cannabis if they were allowed.³

While legal access to medicinal cannabis is technically possible, the existing criteria are too strict, the process is too slow, and pharmaceutical derivatives are too expensive.

We need a compassionate approach that provides New Zealanders with safe legal access to high quality, affordable, medicinal cannabis including natural herbal cannabis.

In 2011 the New Zealand Law Commission recommended police not prosecute patients using medicinal cannabis. However patients and caregivers remain at risk. Parents face jail time and can have their children taken away. Illicit cannabis can be difficult to find, expensive, and of unknown composition. Legal access to medicinal cannabis remains difficult and highly restricted.



Treating yourself should not be a crime. Seven ways NZ can have safe legal access now:

- 1** Police should declare an immediate moratorium on arrests and prosecutions.
- 2** Fast-track more medicinal cannabis products, including locally-made versions.
- 3** Tell Pharmac to fund Sativex® and other medicinal cannabis products so that all patients have equal access regardless of income.
- 4** Amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977 (22.2) to let doctors prescribe medicinal cannabis products without Ministerial approval.

Help change the law

 **ASK YOUR MP TO SUPPORT SAFE LEGAL ACCESS TO MEDICINAL CANNABIS**

- 5** Recognise cannabis is a plant. Treat cannabis as a herbal remedy when used therapeutically, so patients can grow their own.
- 6** Support Labour MP Damian O'Connor's private member's bill to remove Peter Dunne's power to overrule a doctor's recommendation.
- 7** Vote for parties who support medicinal cannabis law reform: e.g. Labour, the Greens, the Maori Party, the Cannabis Party.

For more information or to join NORML
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ASB Bank 12-3057-0594667-00



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MEDICAL CANNABIS



Patients & the law

NZ patients need safe legal access to affordable, high quality medicinal cannabis.

**This is a health issue
it should not be a crime.**



NZ patients need
safe legal access to

MEDICINAL CANNABIS



Studies show cannabis and cannabinoids are effective for the treatment or relief of many conditions including:

- Alzheimer's
- ALS
- Appetite loss
- Arthritis
- Cancer
- Chronic Pain
- Crohn's disease
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Fibromyalgia
- GI disorders
- Glaucoma
- Hepatitis C
- HIV
- Migraine
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Nausea
- Osteoporosis
- Parkinson's
- PTSD
- Sleep disorders
- Tourette's

 **SEARCH MEDICINAL CANNABIS CLINICAL TRIALS** WWW.CANNABIS-MED.ORG

Legal around the world

Medicinal cannabis is now legal in most states of the USA, Uruguay, Israel, the Netherlands, Finland, Germany, Austria, Czech, Portugal, Spain, Canada and parts of Australia. Some studies have found lower rates of teen use⁴, road deaths⁵ and abuse of prescription meds⁶ in states where medicinal use is legal.



Medicinal cannabis can come in many forms: flowers (bud), concentrates, oils, tinctures, butter, balms, and sprays.

Cannabis or cannabis products may be inhaled, ingested or applied topically. Cannabis may be vaporised as an alternative to smoking.

There are more than 100 different cannabinoids and terpenes, and the concentrations of each vary from plant to plant and strain to strain.

THC has the most significant psychoactive effect, while cannabidiol (CBD) is non-psychoactive and relieves convulsions, inflammation, anxiety and nausea. Cannabinol (CBN) is mildly psychoactive and decreases intraocular pressure and seizure occurrence.

Sativa strains tend to be higher in THC and produce stimulating feelings. Indicas tend to be higher in CBD and relax the body.

If you use cannabis medicinally, talk to your doctor. Discuss interactions with your other medications. Start with low doses. Know your variety. Consider safety for yourself and others. Keep a log to inform yourself and your doctor and help manage your therapeutic use.

Download



CLINICAL APPLICATIONS OF CANNABIS AND CANNABINOIDS NORML.ORG.NZ/MEDICAL

Visit www.safeaccessnow.org/using_medical_cannabis & www.norml.org.nz/about/cannabis-harm-reduction

How to apply for medicinal cannabis & cannabis products

NZ patients have four options for legal access to medicinal cannabis - but none are easy.

1 Specialists can prescribe the cannabis extract *Sativex*[®] for approved or unapproved uses. Approval is required from the Minister of Health, and patients must arrange their own funding.



2 Doctors can apply to the Minister of Health to provide 'pharmaceutical grade' cannabis products approved overseas. There are very strict criteria.

3 Doctors can apply to the Minister of Health to provide 'non-pharmaceutical grade' cannabis, including manufacturing it for the patient, or herbal cannabis that has been approved overseas. This has even stricter criteria.

4 Patients can travel overseas and bring back one month's lawfully obtained supply.

START YOUR APPLICATION PROCESS

- NZ Ministry of Health page on medicinal cannabis www.health.govt.nz
- Sativex application form www.medsafe.govt.nz

PATIENT SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

- Medical Cannabis Awareness NZ - www.mcawareness.org.nz
- It's Medicine - www.itsmedicine.co.nz
- GreenCross - on Facebook
- Start the Conversation - www.conversation.org.nz
- NORML NZ - norml.org.nz/medical

References: 1 MOH goo.gl/xqgRKP 2 UMR goo.gl/EwW7vu
3 Green Party goo.gl/zns3B 4 Colorado Govt goo.gl/Ex6HHp
5 Time goo.gl/rnbFO 6 Newsweek goo.gl/JyTpRW