

David

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Ref: H201902669

Response to your request for official information

Dear David

I refer to your request of 26 April 2019, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

"Is CBD oil available via prescription in NZ and if so, what is the procedure/criteria to obtain a prescription?"

Is it legal to possess/use CBD products without a prescription? i.e. can products be shipped from overseas for personal use?"

If possible, i would also like any high-level reports etc on CBD in general please."

Cannabidiol (CBD) is now classified in New Zealand as a prescription-only medicine in Schedule One, Part One of the Medicines Regulations 1984. This follows a legislative change made in December 2018 with the passing of the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act where CBD was removed from the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 as a controlled drug.

Further information can be found on the website for the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/medicinal-cannabis/misuse-drugs-medicinal-cannabis-amendment-act>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/medicinal-cannabis/misuse-drugs-medicinal-cannabis-amendment-act/advice-governments-medicinal-cannabis-100-day-commitment>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/medicinal-cannabis/cbd-products>

A New Zealand registered medical practitioner is able to prescribe a CBD product if they consider that it is clinically appropriate to treat their patient. They need to specify the brand of the CBD product that they wish to prescribe on the prescription.

As there are no CBD products currently in New Zealand with consent for distribution (meaning no company has submitted their product for assessment by Medsafe for its safety, quality or efficacy), the medical practitioner is responsible for any outcomes following use of the CBD product, and must obtain informed consent from their patient before prescribing it.

As CBD is a prescription-only medicine, a person cannot import any products for personal use without having a valid prescription from a New Zealand registered medical practitioner.

Further information is available on the Ministry's website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/medicinal-cannabis/cbd-products>

Further information about the scheduling of CBD including papers relating to the minutes of meetings by the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs (EACD) and Medicines Classification Committee (MCC) can be found on the Medsafe website:

<https://medsafe.govt.nz/publications/OIA/CannabidiolAndTetrahydrocannabinol/Contents.asp>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/ministerial-health-committees/national-drug-policy-committees#eacd26oct>

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe