

Fact Sheet

Medicinal Cannabis Evidence Reviews and Guidance

The medicinal use of cannabis in clinical treatment is subject to ongoing discussion and investigation among health professionals. There is some clinical evidence for use of cannabis and derivatives in severe chronic conditions unresponsive to existing treatments however further research and development is progressing into the safety and efficacy of medicinal cannabis products, and to establish their role in clinical use.

The following references provide information about the use of medicinal cannabis and the clinical evidence to date:

[K Chen et al. 2018. Cannabidiol for treating drug-resistant epilepsy in children: the New South Wales experience](#)

[JL Freeman. 2018. Safety of cannabidiol prescribed for children with refractory epilepsy](#)

[G Campbell et.al. 2018. Effect of cannabis use in people with chronic non-cancer pain prescribed opioids: findings from a 4-year prospective cohort study](#)

[J. Aviram, and G .Samuely-Leichtag, 2017. Efficacy of Cannabis-Based Medicines for Pain Management: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials](#)

[Wong, Shane Shucheng & E. Wilens, Timothy, 2017. Medical Cannabinoids in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review.](#)

[The National Academies Press, 2017. The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research.](#)

[P Whiting et. al. 2015. Cannabinoids for Medical Use – A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#)

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) conducted a series of systematic reviews of the evidence around the potential use of medicinal cannabis products in particular conditions.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published guidance documents on their website for health professionals based on the evidence reviews in the following medical conditions:

- Paediatric and adult epilepsies
- Multiple sclerosis
- Nausea and vomiting, resulting from chemotherapy and HIV/AIDS therapy
- Various types of pain
- Palliative care

The TGA website also provides links to bibliographies of the major studies used in developing the guidance documents which can be found at <https://www.tga.gov.au/medicinal-cannabis->

For more information

Medicines and Technology Programs
Department of Health and Wellbeing
SA Health
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/medicinalcannabis

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