



Medicine: delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol (brand name: Sativex®)

GW Pharma Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed Sativex® for improving moderate to severe symptoms related to muscle stiffness and spasms (known as spasticity) in adult patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). Spasticity has a major impact on the ability to carry out tasks of daily living and on quality of life. Sativex® is used for treating patients whose symptoms have not been helped enough by other medicines and who found it helped improve their symptoms during a trial period. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted Sativex® use for improving symptoms related to spasticity in adult patients with MS as described above.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that Sativex® for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland.



What is Sativex® used for?

Sativex® is used to improve symptoms of spasticity in adult patients with MS, specifically for patients whose symptoms have not been helped enough by other medicines.

How does Sativex® work?

Sativex® is an oral spray which contains two different active ingredients, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). THC and CBD work on the cannabinoid receptors in the brain and spinal cord to help relax muscles and relieve spasticity.

How does SMC make its decision?

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland.

To do this SMC considers the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.

When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not only those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of Sativex® by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2473).

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with MS and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Multiple Sclerosis Trust



<https://www.mstrust.org.uk>



0800 032 38 39

The Multiple Sclerosis Society



<https://www.mssociety.org.uk>



0808 800 8000

Revive MS Support



<https://www.revivemssupport.org.uk>



0141 945 3344

You can find out more about delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol (Sativex®) in the Patient Leaflet (PIL) by searching for the medicine name on the electronic medicines compendium (EMC) website.



<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>