

Medical Cannabis Awareness NZ

Patient Advocacy

“MCANZ”

Putting patients before politics

Medical Cannabis Awareness New Zealand (MCANZ) is the only charity exclusively focused on the safe access to legal Medical Cannabis (MC) products. Our primary goals for our first year are:

- 1) To fund Sativex or any newly approved MC product for patients
- 2) To advocate for an alternative cannabis based products**
- 3) To educate the medical establishment with formally accredited courses on MC
- 4) To become the recognized centre of knowledge/excellence on the issue of MC

For the second goal, we have been working with a Canadian manufacturer on behalf of several patients to obtain a cheaper alternative to Sativex. From our initial three patients, we have had 100% success as the company was well on the way to certification to pharmaceutical grade. This has now been complete, and they offer both a Sativex equivalent elixir, but also a pure CBD product, which is also being used in Victoria Australia. It is in this vein that as a charity, we are attempting to be “clinically responsible” in advocating for patients who have run out of options for satisfactory treatment, and with well-prepared reputable products.

MCANZ and the patient delivering this letter would like to gauge your willingness to consider the prescription of an alternative Cannabis product.

We understand the hesitancy around using Cannabinoids, especially for chronic pain. Our position is:

The patient has a right to try this medicine *as a last resort, or*

When the side effects of a Cannabis based medicine is less than other third line medicines, such as AEDs which can cause blindness.

If you are receptive to the possibility of using a cannabis based product, please let the patient know. We will do the legwork and research, and put forward to you a product that we feel fits the needs of the patient, with attached research justifying the rationale in trialling a product, and answer as many questions and concerns about the product. We will provide contact details for the supplier’s clinical team for further support, to make your job of making an application for the product as smooth as possible. Recognising that medical professionals are not resourced to understand the ins and outs of the burgeoning medical Cannabis industry our role is to server you up everything you need “on a silver platter” to save you time and avoid half-baked applications such as the one made for a prominent New Zealander in early 2016.

For your consideration

Shane Le Brun

Medical Cannabis Awareness Coordinator

shane@mcanz.org.nz

www.mcawarenessnz.org

03 5477479 (home line)

021 245 6601

