



SPH Circular 2/2018

7th March 2018

Attention: Medical Practitioners
Pharmacists
Wholesale dealers
Pharmacy Licensees

RE: Prescribing and dispensing of medical cannabinoids

As per updated *Drug Dependence (Treatment not Imprisonment) (Amendment) Act, 2018*, synthetic cannabinoid products and medicinal preparations of the plant cannabis products licenced under the Medicines Act or manufactured under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), may now be prescribed by all licenced medical practitioners, if it is considered that there is no viable alternative to such prescription.

A licenced medical practitioner who needs to prescribe medical cannabinoids is to send a request on the enclosed form to the Superintendent of Public Health. Following evaluation of the request, the outcome will be communicated by the Superintendent of Public Health to the medical practitioner. The approval is to be kept by the patient and presented to the medical practitioner for further prescriptions for duration of the permit, and to the pharmacist for dispensing.

If the request is approved, the medical practitioner is required to fill in the relevant prescription and the control card for narcotic and psychotropic drugs. No urgent prescriptions without a control card are allowed.

Medical cannabinoid products can only be dispensed by a pharmacist from a licensed pharmacy upon presentation of the Superintendent of Public Health's approved application, prescription and control card. Pharmacists are to keep records of patient details; date; product dispensed, dose and amount; and details of the prescribing doctor.

No preparation may be indicated for smoking.

Kindly be guided by the above.

Dr Charmaine Gauci
Superintendent of Public Health