

**Position Statement;** Prescribing of Cannabis Sativa Extract (Sativex®) is not supported in Primary Care

**Castle Point and Rochford and Southend Clinical Commissioning Groups do not support the prescribing.**

**Cannabis sativa extract is a cannabinoid containing oromucosal spray, licensed as an adjunct in moderate to severe spasticity in multiple sclerosis and should not be prescribed in primary care.**

- Although cannabis sativa extract is licensed to treat spasticity in multiple sclerosis, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) does not recommend it for this indication as it is not cost-effective. NICE guidance for multiple sclerosis in adults offers alternative treatment options for spasticity.
- NICE does not recommend cannabis sativa extract to treat neuropathic pain in non specialist settings and it is not licensed for use in neuropathic pain. It should therefore not be routinely prescribed. In South Essex this drug is for hospital specialist use only; it must not be prescribed in primary care.

Sativex® is the only licensed cannabis product. Cannabis is not licensed for the treatment of any other conditions except as stated above.

Cannabis should therefore not be prescribed in primary care in any form or for any condition.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCGs are reminded that they are required to follow the Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCGs formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract (Medicines Management Service Specification). See Southend and Castle Point and Rochford CCGs websites – Medicines Management for all prescribing guidance.

Adapted from Thurrock CCG Policy Statements.

Approved for use in Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCGs	Drugs and Therapeutics Committee 07.11.2018
Title	Prescribing of cannabis sativa extract
Reference	<p><b>NICE CG 186 Multiple sclerosis in adults: management.</b>  <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG186">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG186</a>.</p> <p><b>National institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance Do Not Do Recommendations.</b>  <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/savingsandproductivity/collection?page=1&amp;pagesize=2000&amp;type=do%20not%20do">https://www.nice.org.uk/savingsandproductivity/collection?page=1&amp;pagesize=2000&amp;type=do%20not%20do</a></p> <p><b>NICE CG173-Neuropathic Pain in adults: pharmacological management in non specialist setting.</b>  <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/cg173">https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/cg173</a></p>

Review Date: 07.11.2020