

To:

- Chief Clinical Officers of CCGs,
- Chief Pharmacists of CCGs,
- Medical Directors of NHS trusts,
- Chief Pharmacists of NHS trusts

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

6 September 2021

Dear colleague,

Prescribing of THC:CBD spray (Sativex®) in line with NICE NG144

To support prescribing decisions, [NICE guideline NG144 on Cannabis-Based Medicinal Products](#) (CBMPs) was published in November 2019.

The guideline recommends offering a four-week trial of THC:CBD spray (Sativex®) to treat moderate to severe spasticity in adults with multiple sclerosis if other pharmacological treatments for spasticity are not effective.

Section 1.3 of the guideline outlines that as part of the arrangements for the pay-for-responders scheme, the manufacturer will provide the first 3 x 10ml vials of Sativex if there is agreement for continued funding for people with at least a 20% reduction in spasticity-related symptoms, on a 0 to 10 patient-reported numeric rating scale after four weeks.

This means that the manufacturer covers the cost of the first pack of Sativex (3 x 10ml vials) for the purposes of trialling patients to assess their response to the medicine, with a commitment that prescribing continues should it meet the response threshold set out above.

Section 1.3.2 of the NICE guideline details that treatment with Sativex should be initiated and supervised by a physician with specialist expertise in treating spasticity due to multiple sclerosis, in line with its marketing authorisation.

Sativex is licensed by the MHRA as a treatment for symptom improvement of moderate to severe spasticity in adults with multiple sclerosis. Sativex is recommended by NICE as an add-on treatment for adults with treatment-resistant spasticity due to multiple sclerosis.

Restrictions on prescribing of unlicensed medicines or 'specials' do not apply to Sativex in its licensed indication.

I would be grateful if this information can be cascaded to colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. W. Ridge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Keith Ridge CBE
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
NHS England and NHS Improvement