

SITUATION

Patients may be legally prescribed a registered or unregistered medicinal cannabinoid prior to admission. This may be continued as an inpatient if the treating medical officer (MO) has assessed it is clinically appropriate for the patient and the relevant governance procedures are completed.

BACKGROUND

The composition of cannabis preparations can vary substantially in content of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD) or other cannabinoids. In Australia, cannabis medicines containing >98% cannabidiol as total cannabinoid content are Schedule 4 medicines¹. However because of challenges in determining the scheduling for unregistered cannabinoid products, all products charted for patients within HNE LHD will be treated as Schedule 8.

Currently, the only registered cannabinoid product available in Australia is Sativex, an oromucosal spray approved for treatment of moderate to severe spasticity due to multiple sclerosis². Other unregistered cannabinoid products may be approved for importation by the patient through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) under the Special Access Scheme (SAS), Authorised Prescriber (AP) pathway or clinical trial.

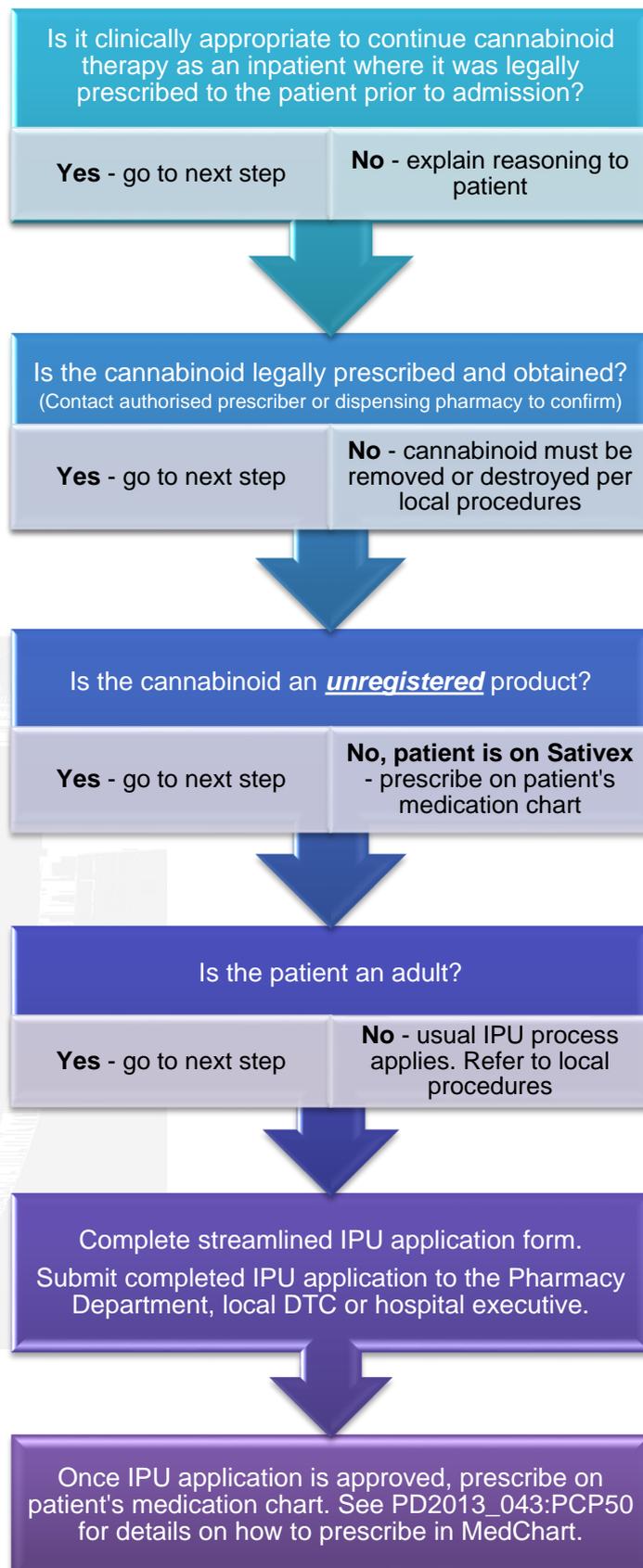
The local Drug and Therapeutics Committee (DTC) or hospital executive must approve the use of any unregistered medicine for inpatient use³.

ASSESSMENT

To continue cannabinoid therapy where clinically appropriate, the patient must have their own supply and the MO must confirm the product is lawfully prescribed and obtained. Contact the prescriber or dispensing pharmacy to confirm.

For adults, a [streamlined IPU application form](#) may be used to submit to the local DTC or hospital executive for approval to continue an unregistered cannabinoid medicine⁴.

RECOMMENDATIONS



REFERENCES

1. [NSW Health – Cannabis Medicines](#) [Accessed 25 May 2020]
2. [MIMS Online – Sativex](#) [Accessed 25 May 2020]
3. [PD2016_033 Approval Process of Medicines for Use in NSW Public Hospitals](#)
4. [PD2013_043:PCP 50 Patient's own Cannabinoids Medicines \(Adults\)](#) and [Continued Inpatient Use of Patient's Own Unregistered Cannabinoid Streamlined IPU form](#)