

INFORMATION PROVISION ABOUT MEDICINAL CANNABIS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Reda Harmane, Pharm.D.¹, Froukje Harkes-Idzinga, Pharm.D.¹

¹) Medicines Information Centre, Royal Dutch Pharmacists Association (KNMP), The Hague, The Netherlands.

Contact: r.harmane@knmp.nl

INTRODUCTION

In recent years the use of medicinal cannabis in the Netherlands has increased. Since September 2003, it has been permitted for pharmacists in The Netherlands to supply medicinal cannabis on prescription. In 2021, medicinal cannabis was dispensed 42,000 times, with 6,700 patients using it [1]. Pharmacists and other healthcare professionals are increasingly receiving questions about medicinal cannabis from patients. A legal assessment of effectiveness versus safety, as is customary for registered medicines, is lacking. Therefore, drug information about medicinal cannabis is required.

AIM

To provide healthcare professionals with information about the indications, dosage, side effects and drug monitoring of medicinal cannabis in The Netherlands, during the prescribing and dispensing process.

METHOD

Scientific literature, guidelines, product specification documents and standard reference works about medicinal cannabis were reviewed in order to provide healthcare professionals with reliable information, which can be used in daily practice.

INFORMATORIUM MEDICAMENTORUM (IM)

The IM is the leading drug information database and reference work for pharmacists in the Netherlands, based on scientific drug information.

It contains the following information per drug, such as;

- Indications
- Dosage
- Contraindication
- Interactions
- Side effects
- Traffic participation
- Kinetics

G-STANDAARD

The Dutch drug database, which is used by all parties in healthcare, which supports the different processes in healthcare, like prescription, dispensing, ordering, reimbursement and decision support.

RESULTS

Based on the review, we provide practical guidelines and information for the use of medicinal cannabis through the leading drug information database for pharmacists in the Netherlands, Informatorium Medicamentorum (IM) and the Dutch drug database *G-Standaard*. The information in the IM consists mainly of pharmacotherapeutic data, which can be consulted by pharmacists during the dispensing process and when advising physicians. This information is also used by the website *Apotheek.nl*, which provides understandable medicinal information for patients. The information in the *G-Standaard* is incorporated in electronic healthcare systems, which in relevant situations leads to an alert during the prescribing and dispensing processes.

CONCLUSION

Health care professionals in the Netherlands are provided with relevant information about medicinal cannabis during the prescribing and dispensing processes through background information in the IM and the *G-Standaard*.

IM

Reviewing the following sources:

- Summary of Product Characteristics
- Treatment guidelines
- Medical/pharmaceutical journals, websites and manuals
- *G-Standaard* changes (contra-indications)
- Feedback from practice

Is the information necessary,
helpful, up to date and correct?
If yes;

Implementation in the IM



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Literature
1 Stichting Farmaceutische Kengetallen Pharmaceutisch Weekblad,
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