

Patient choice of Pharmacy:

Patients have the right to choose what pharmacy they get their medicine from. And this is a fundamental right enshrined in the Code of Health and Disability Services, Consumers' Rights.

Doctors need to take all necessary steps to ensure they do not unduly influence a patient's choice of pharmacy. This includes the following:

- Asking the patient if they have decided on their preferred pharmacy or if they would like to take away a copy of the prescription.
- Ensuring the patient understands all options they have including that a pharmacy of their choice can deliver their medication, but avoid promoting a particular pharmacy.
- Ensuring that the IT solutions that Clinics have enable them to send prescriptions to any pharmacy.

As of 22nd of December 2022, changes to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977 allow signature-exempt prescriptions for controlled drug medicines to be made through the New Zealand ePrescription Service (NZePS). This reduces the administrative burden for prescribers and pharmacists because it was previously a requirement for the prescriber to provide a hard copy, signed version of any prescription for a controlled drug medicine. However this isn't the case anymore.

Cannabis Flower:

Dried Cannabis Flower can be bought in New Zealand in the following sizes currently, 10 grams, 15 grams, 30 grams and 35 grams. The 10 gram options come in white plastic pottles and the larger amounts come in bag form. Flower prices for THC Cannabis strains range from \$12.00 a gram for around 15% THC, to around \$20.00 a gram for 25% THC. This equates to between \$0.05c to \$0.07c per milligram of THC on average.

THC Oil:

25 mg/mL THC oil is available in both 30 and 40mL bottles. With the 30mL bottles containing 750mg, and 1,000mg respectively for the 40mL bottle. The cost per milligram ranges from \$0.13c and \$0.20c on average depending on what brand you choose, and where you buy it from.

CBD Oil:

CBD Oil is also available in both 30 and 40mL bottles. With the strength of the oil varying from 25mg/mL to as high as 400mg/mL. The average cost per milligram ranges from \$0.03c to \$0.27c depending on what brand you choose, and where you buy it from. Along with if it is full spectrum, broad spectrum or in an Isolate form devoid of all other cannabinoids.

THC:CBD Oil:

There is a range of oils that have both THC and CBD in them. For example there are 1:1 ratio oils with 10mg of THC, and 10mg of CBD. There is also a range of other products that are available in 1:4, 2:3, 2:40 ratio for example.

Please check mcanz.org.nz/pricing for updates to this information past September 2023

