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Dr Ben Jansen

Director of Cannabis Doctors Australia

Saturday, August 10, 2019

(Room 4)

16:30 - 17:30 WS #135: Prescribing Medicinal Cannabis

17:35 - 18:30 WS #145: Prescribing Medicinal Cannabis (Repeated)

How to prescribe medicinal cannabis

Graham Gulbransen

Cannabis Consultant, GP & Addiction Specialist, Henderson

doctor@cannabiscare.nz

Christchurch GPCME 10 August 2019

- Who has prescribed CBD?
- Who has prescribed CBD/THC (Sativex)?

Medicinal cannabis is NOT usually smoked as a joint

- Taken orally as drops, lozenges, capsules
- Oral spray
- Inhaled with vaping devices (non-combustion)
- Topical balms.



‘I don’t want to get high’

‘I just want relief from pain, nausea, insomnia, anxiety etc’

CBD is non-euphoriant, but widely therapeutic, few adverse effects

CBD Good News – Bad News

- All registered medical practitioners may prescribe CBD for any condition
- Chronic pain and/or emotional distress is a good place to start
- CBD in Mims as cannabidiol

Section 29 medicines are considered 'new' medicines because they do not have a consent for distribution and advertising of such medicines is prohibited under section 20 of the Medicines Act.

20 Restrictions on sale or supply of new medicines

(1) Except as provided in [sections 25](#), [26\(4\)](#), [28](#), [30](#), [31](#), and [32](#), this section applies to new medicines.

(2) **No person shall—**

(a) sell; or

(b) distribute by way of gift or loan or sample or in any other way; or

(c) **advertise the availability of—**

any medicine to which this section applies before the consent or provisional consent of the Minister to the distribution of the medicine has been notified in the *Gazette*, or otherwise than in accordance with such conditions as may be imposed by the Minister on giving his consent or provisional consent and notified in the *Gazette*.

Medicinal Cannabis Scheme

10 July 2019

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/medicinal-cannabis-scheme-consultation-document.pdf>

Table 4: Prescribing requirements – approved medicinal cannabis products that are controlled drugs

Current		Proposed	
On-label	Off-label	On-label	Off-label
- Specialist can prescribe or - Medical practitioner (doctor) can prescribe with a recommendation from a specialist	- Specialist can prescribe with Ministry of Health approval or - Medical practitioner (doctor) can prescribe with a recommendation from a specialist and Ministry of Health approval	- Specialist can prescribe or - Medical practitioner (doctor) can prescribe without recommendation from a specialist	- Specialist can prescribe without Ministry of Health approval or - Medical practitioner (doctor) can prescribe with a recommendation from a specialist without Ministry of Health approval

Prescribing medicinal cannabis

1. CBD products

2. Sativex – Approved condition

3. Sativex – Unapproved use

4. Pharmaceutical grade cannabis-based product without consent for distribution

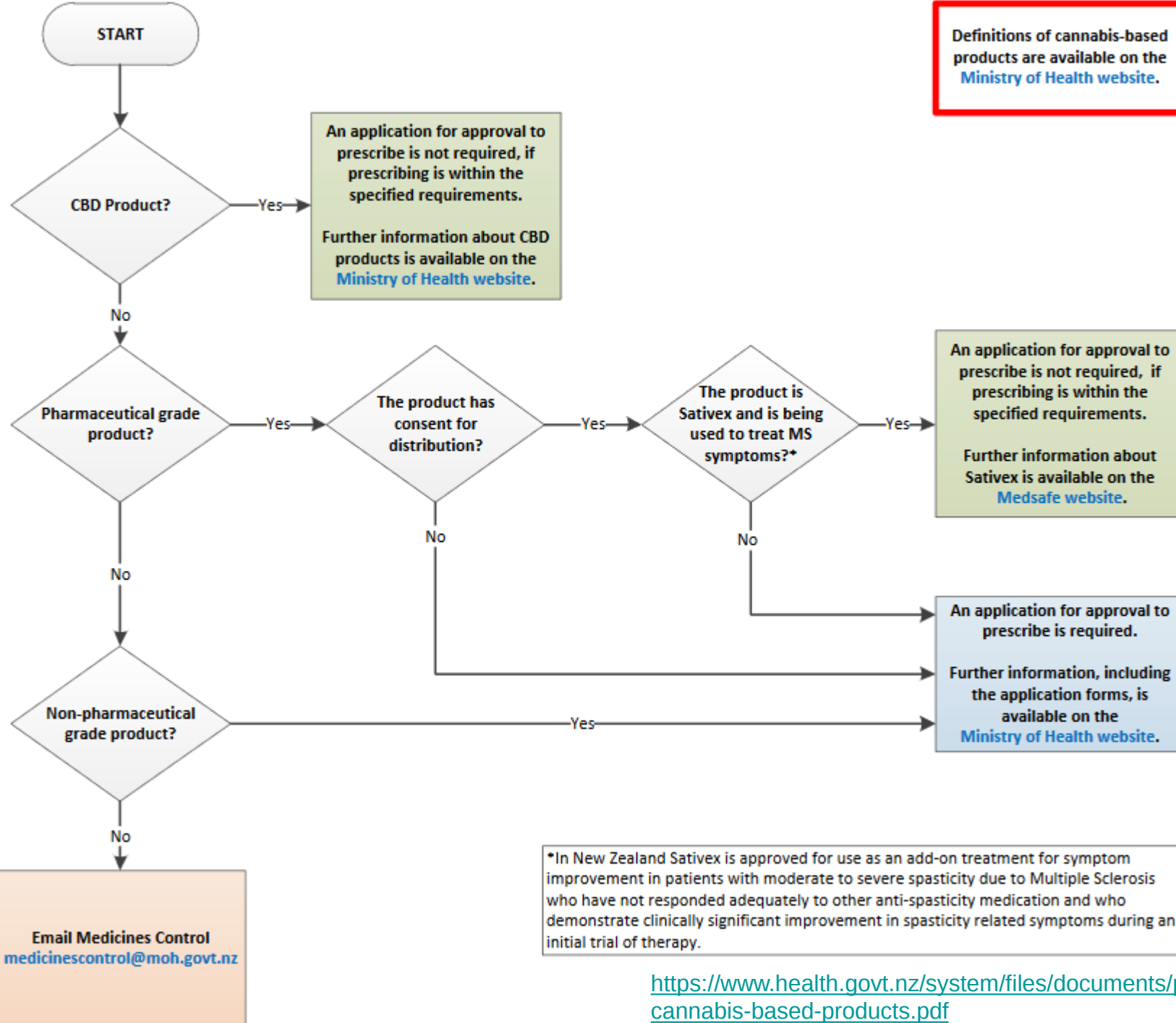
5. Non-pharmaceutical grade

6. Compassionate cannabis

Summary of Approvals Required to Prescribe Cannabis Based Products



7 September 2017



Definitions of cannabis-based products are available on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

These regulations, which came into force on
7 September 2017,
amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977

- allow CBD products to be supplied, administered, or prescribed without the approval of the Minister of Health...
- ie All NZ doctors may prescribe CBD.

- Standard prescription form
- CBD25 costs approx. \$120
and CBD100 costs approx. \$350 at the pharmacy, 25ml.
- They last about 1 month.
- The pharmacy orders them in from a pharmaceutical warehouse & they arrive the next day.
- Stable about 6 months out of the fridge.

Dr GRAHAM GULBRANSEN

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Dr Graham Gulbransen

NZMC Reg No.11258

HPI Facility: F3L701-B

Item Count:

Subsidy Card:

Mr Mickey Mouse

Apartment 99,235 Dominion Road,Mt Eden,CENTRAL AUCKLAND

M Ph:

W/H Ph: 838 9099, 555 2525

GMS: A3

DOB: 12 May 1980 NHI: ABC1235

Rx

17/06/2019

Dispense stat list medicines once only unless Frequent Dispense specified

Cannabidiol 100mg/1mL Oral Soln (section 29)

Sig: Take 0.25ml early evening. Increase as directed.

Contact person: Micky 555 2525

Mitte: 25 mls

Tilray CBD oil has been
available in NZ since 7/12/17

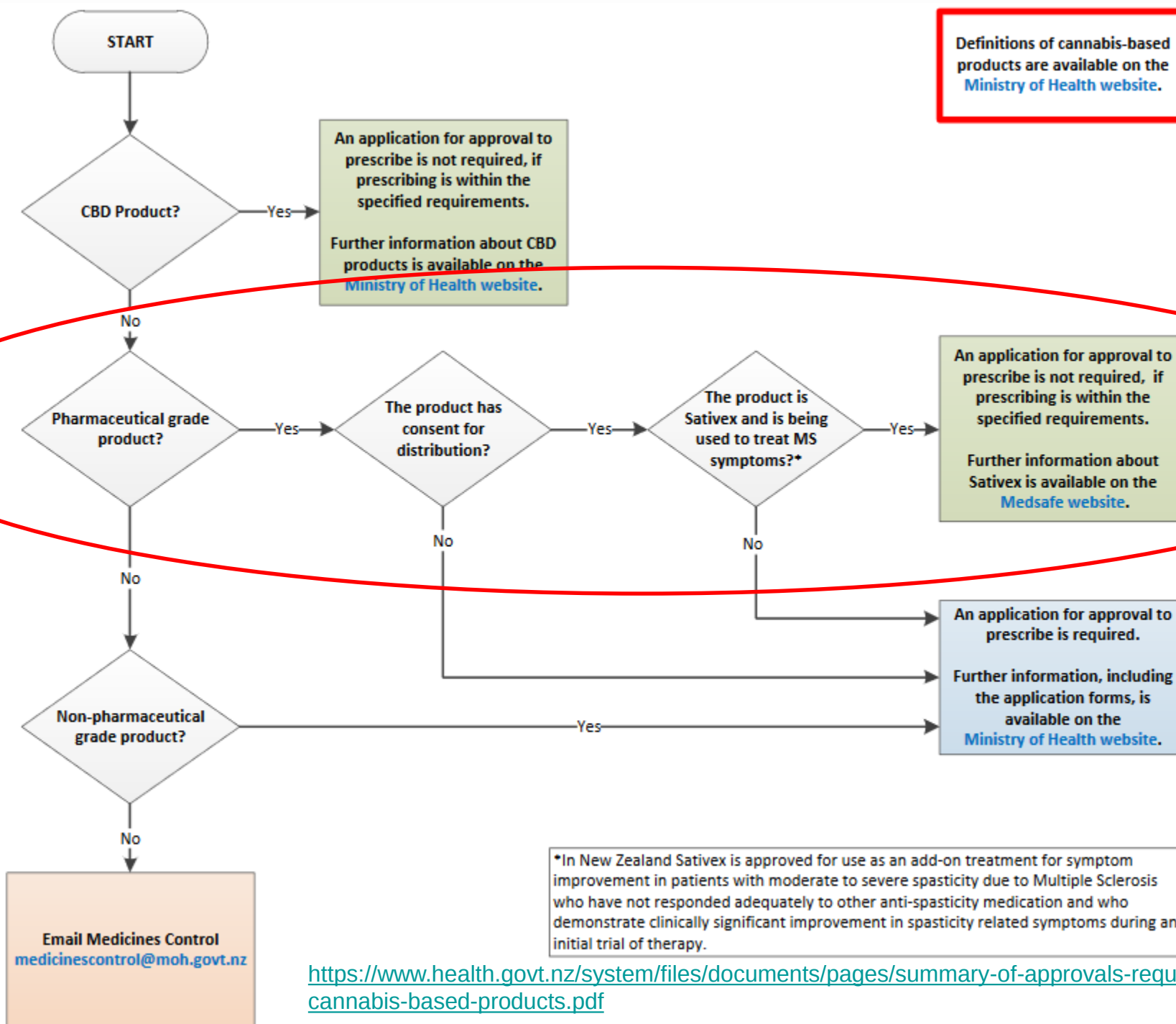
Dr Graham Gulbransen _____

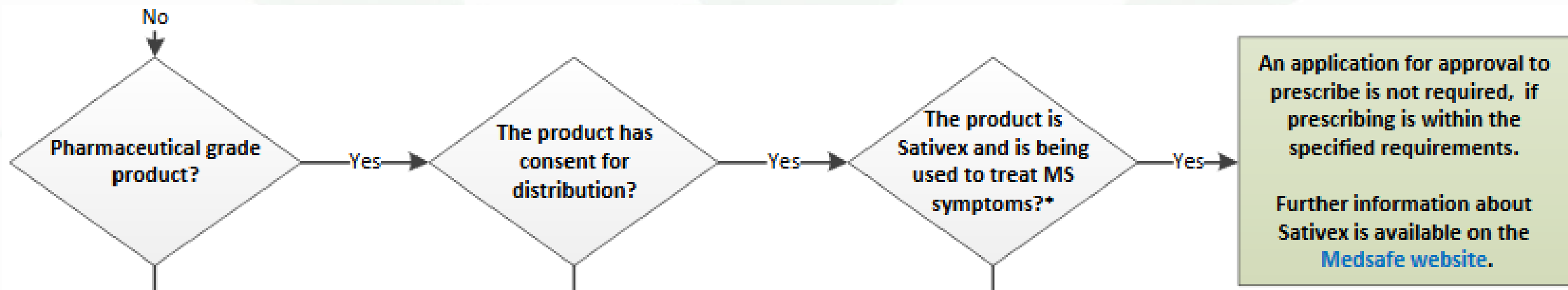


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Definitions of cannabis-based products are available on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

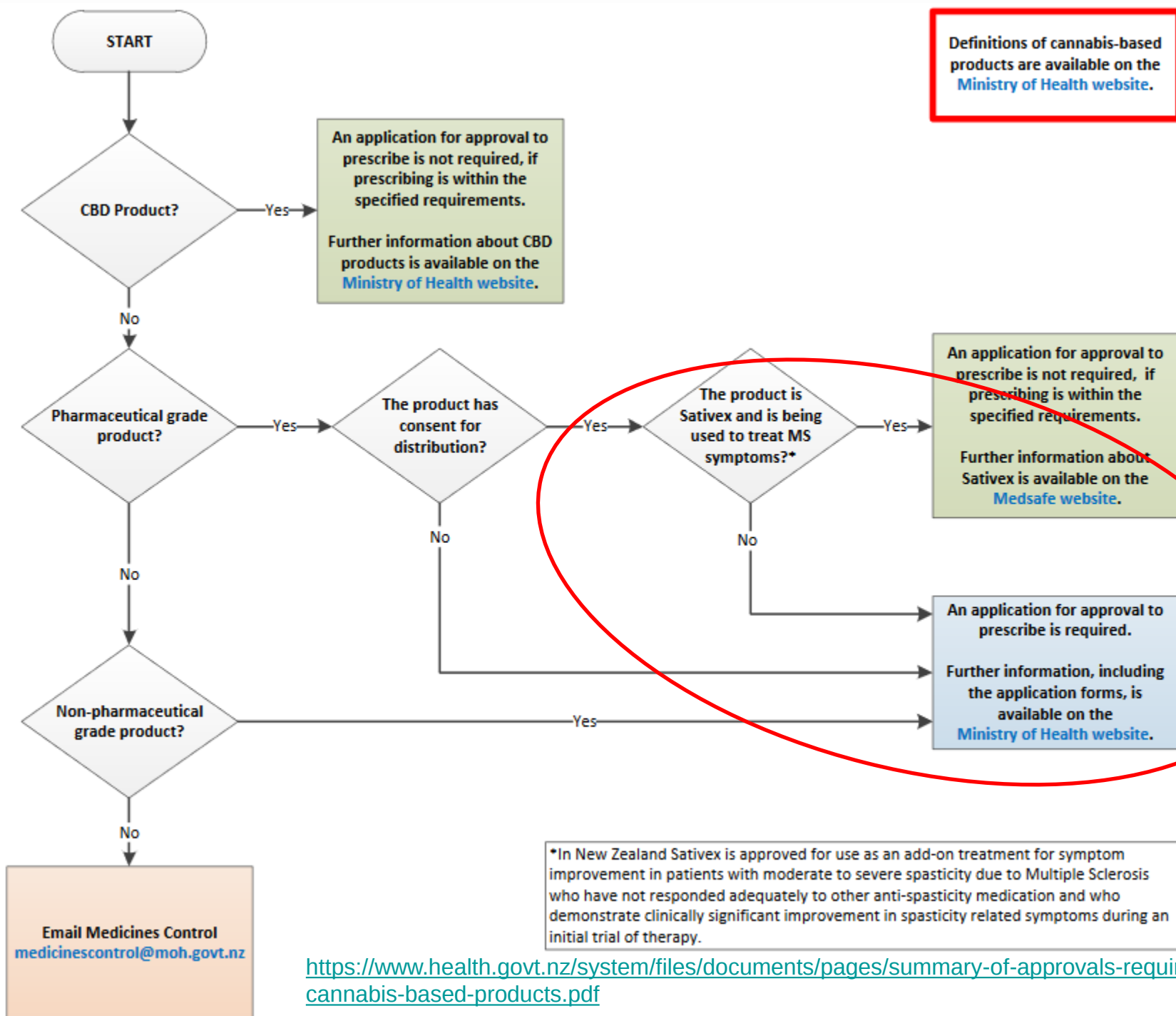


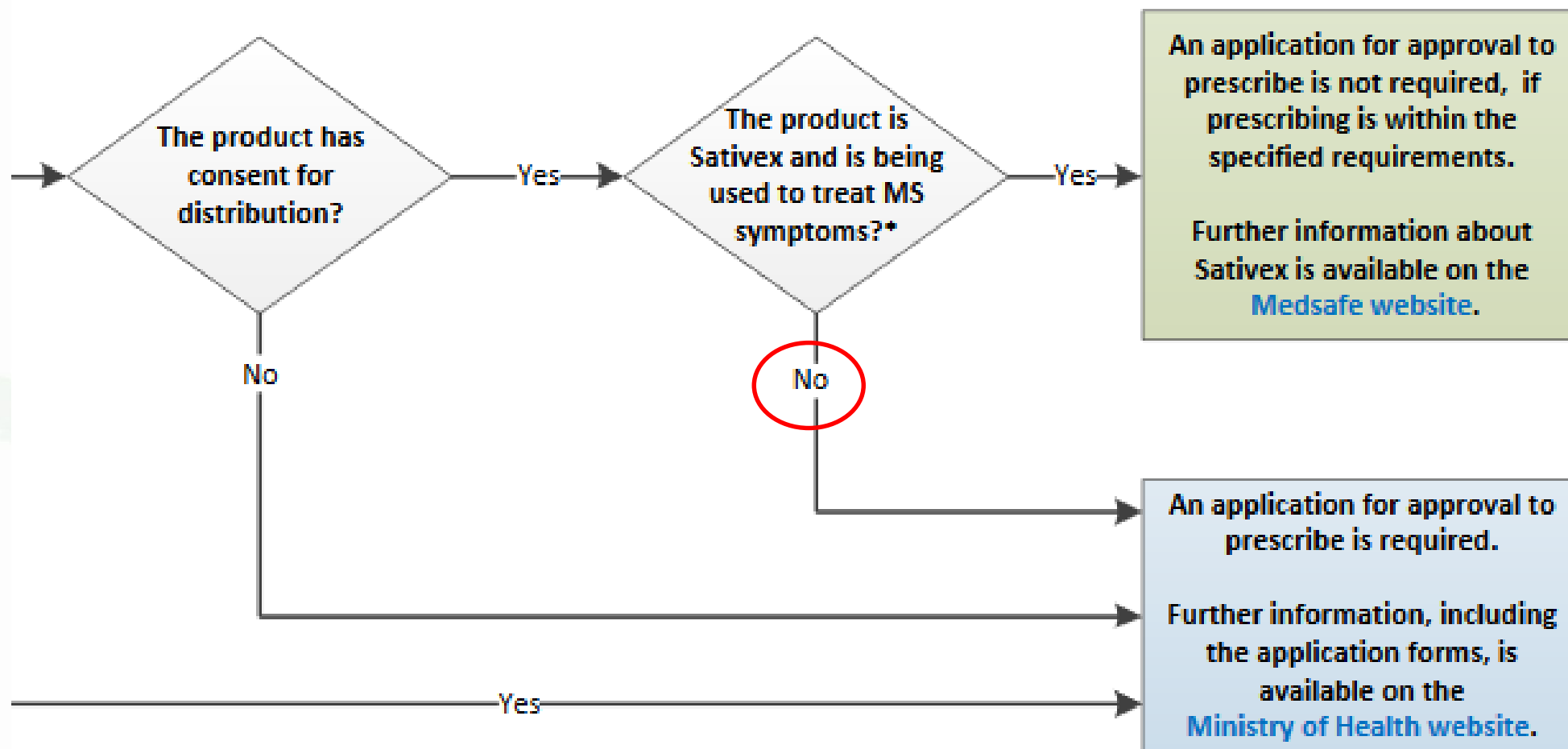


2. Restriction on the Supply of Sativex—Approval to Prescribe, Supply and Administer (Approval No. 2016/AP305)

- MS: spasms not managed by conventional medicine
- Medical practitioners... acting on the written recommendation... of a Neurologist may prescribe Sativex
- The prescriber is required to state **multiple sclerosis & Neurologist name** on the prescription form.

Definitions of cannabis-based products are available on the [Ministry of Health website](#).





3. Sativex 'unapproved use'

- Sativex application form 2 pages
- GP & Specialist signatures
- Process time 1 – 2 days.
- Medical Council states that Vocationally Registered GPs are specialists – why is a second non-GP specialist needed???

Application for APPROVAL TO PRESCRIBE SATIVEX FOR AN UNAPPROVED USE

A completed and signed copy of this form must be submitted for each application for use of Sativex for each specified patient.

Please note that Sativex® is currently not funded by PHARMAC.

1. PATIENT DETAILS

Full name of patient:	
Full Street address:	
Date of Birth:	
NHI Number:	
Is this a Renewal of an existing approval	

2. INDICATION FOR PROPOSED USE OF SATIVEX

3. PATIENT INFORMED CONSENT

The patient should be advised of the benefits and risks associated with treatment with Sativex. The patient should be advised that its use is on a trial basis and if reassessment indicates no benefit (or significant risks) then treatment may be stopped.

"I, the patient named above, am willing to use Sativex®. I have been informed, and understand, the benefits and risks associated with its use."

4. APPLICANT DETAILS (Sativex will only be dispensed for prescriptions written by the applicant)

The applicant must be a General Practitioner (GP) or specialist who normally provides medical care to the patient.

Full name:	
NZ Medical Council Number:	
Full practice Address	
Phone:	
Email:	

5. SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

Specialist assessment and endorsement of the proposal to use Sativex, must be issued by a practitioner who is registered with the New Zealand Medical Council as being competent in the scope of practice appropriate to the management of the condition to be treated.

Full name:	
NZ Medical Council Number:	
Full practice Address	
Phone:	
Email:	

6. ENDORSEMENT AND CONFIRMATION

Signature of patient's prescriber (applicant)

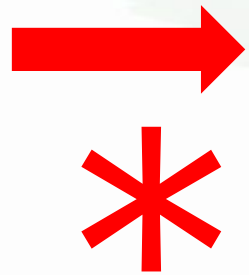
Date

Signature of endorsing specialist

Date

Specialist
only

4. Application for Ministerial approval to prescribe a pharmaceutical grade cannabis-based product without consent for distribution in New Zealand under Regulation 22 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977



Please note that the Government does not support the use of unprocessed or partially processed cannabis leaf or flower preparations for medicinal use.

<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/prescribing-cannabis-based-products>

6. Compassionate Cannabis

- Medical Cannabis Awareness NZ,
<http://mcawarenessnz.org/>
- Questions about prescribing medicinal cannabis
can be emailed to

medicinescontrol@moh.govt.nz

<https://bpac.org.nz/2018/docs/cannabinoids.pdf>

Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Bill – 17 December 2018

- Introduce an exception and a statutory defence for terminally ill people to **possess and use illicit cannabis** and to possess a cannabis utensil

(1B) In this Act, a person **requires palliation** if, in the opinion of a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, the person has an advanced progressive life-limiting condition and is nearing the end of their life.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Re: Certification of need for palliation under the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act 2017.

I the undersigned certify that:

I examined [Patients name] of [address] on [date].

[Patients name] has an advanced progressive life-limiting condition and is nearing the end of their life.

[Patients name] requires palliation to ease their symptoms.

Example template for the Certification of need for palliation under the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act 2017

Date

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Certification of need for palliation under the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act 2017.

I the undersigned certify that:

I examined [Patients name] of [address] on [date].

[Patients name] **has an advanced progressive life-limiting condition and is nearing the end of their life.**

[Patients name] requires palliation to ease their symptoms.

Name and designation of medical practitioner / nurse practitioner

Medical Council / Nursing Council Number

Those amendments—

- allow a medical practitioner, a person who holds a licence to operate a pharmacy under the [Medicines Act 1981](#), or a person who holds a licence to deal in controlled drugs under the Act to import a CBD product without a licence to import the product and to possess and supply that CBD product:
- allow CBD products to be supplied, administered, or prescribed **without** the approval of the Minister of Health:

Patient requests to import CBD

‘...if it is addressed to you, ensure it is appropriately labelled, less than three months' supply and accompanied by a prescription or letter from a New Zealand registered doctor that exactly matches the quantity, strength, and form of the imported medicine and shows the doctor is aware they are being imported. The prescription should be included inside the package, along with a certificate of analysis for the product or sufficient labelling to confirm it meets the definition of a prescription only CBD product.’

(MoH Advisor email to patient 5/2/19)

Any Questions?

~NGA MIHI NUI~

Thank you.

Please note that I take questions and referrals

Video consultations available

www.cannabiscare.nz

doctor@cannabiscare.nz