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Patient Consent Form

This consent form can be viewed online anytime at https://www.epsilonclinics.com.au/.

This form is used to obtain your informed consent for the use of medicinal cannabis as part of your treatment plan. The form outlines the rights, responsibilities, and consent associated with your participation telehealth consultation(s) and treatment plan which may include medicinal cannabis as prescribed for you, by Epsilon Clinic.

Possible Benefits, Risks and Complications of Medicinal Cannabis Therapy

Medicinal cannabis refers to the use of the cannabis plant, its parts, extracts, or products (cannabinoids), derived from those things for medical purposes. Medicinal cannabis contains active ingredients that may be helpful in treating certain medical conditions.

The treatment of medicinal cannabis is generally considered experimental, and the data on which to base treatment decisions are limited. The healthcare professionals at Epsilon Clinics follow clinical guidance issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (**TGA**), found here (and at the TGA pages linked from this page): https://www.tga.gov.au/medicinal-cannabis-guidance-documents.

Epsilon Clinics can supply information upon request in a foreign language or through a translation (at the patient's expense).

Risks and Benefits

Medicinal cannabis may have both benefits and risks. Some of the potential benefits may include symptom management secondary to chronic pain, chronic illness, mental health diagnoses and/or insomnia, amongst other chronic conditions.

There are also potential risks. Medicinal cannabis products, particularly those containing tetrahydrocannabinol (**THC**), carry known possible side effects that may include, but are not limited to: nausea, light-headedness, uncontrolled laughter or euphoria, dry mouth, increased appetite, vomiting, sedation, drowsiness, abnormal blood pressure, physical weakness, confusion, disorientation, dizziness, vertigo, coordination imbalance, memory changes, cognitive impairment, bowel changes, anxiety, hallucinations, paranoid thoughts, psychosis, mental disturbance, abnormal heart rate, lethargy, seizures and chronic bronchitis (if inhaled).

Please note that it is possible to experience side effects from using medicinal cannabis whether it is administered orally, topically, via inhalation or by other methods.

Current medications

It is possible for medicinal cannabis to interact with other medications and cause side effects or affect the way that you respond to or react to other medications (both prescribed and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines). It is important that you disclose to your prescribing doctor all your current medications (including OTC medicines) and supplements which are being used.

Alternative treatments

Medicinal cannabis is not suitable for everyone. There may be alternative treatments available for your medical condition and your doctor will discuss these with you and explain the benefits and risks of each option.

Access

Treatment with Medicinal Cannabis is regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Australia. If medicinal cannabis is suitable, your prescribing doctor will make arrangements to access medicinal cannabis medicines through either the Authorised Prescriber (**AP**) or Special Access Scheme (**SAS**) pathway administered by the TGA. Medicinal cannabis products are not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) and are considered experimental treatments, meaning their effectiveness is not guaranteed.

Dosage and Administration

The Epsilon clinical team will provide education on the appropriate dosages and methods of administration of your cannabis medicine(s). It is important to follow the prescribed dosing guidelines and administration methods carefully, to be able to find your minimum effective dose.

Monitoring and Follow-up

Your prescribing doctor and the Epsilon clinical team will monitor your progress and adjust your treatment plan if or as needed. It is important that you follow the instructions given to you by your prescribing doctor, the Epsilon clinical team and dispensing pharmacist regarding your medicinal cannabis therapy and any clinical investigations considered necessary.

Additionally, you must keep all follow-up appointments and report any side effects or concerns to your Epsilon clinical team.

If you would like more information, Epsilon Clinics can offer additional support, including scheduling additional consultations with an Epsilon clinician to discuss your medicinal cannabis treatment. This may include referring you to another physician for a second opinion.

Liability

Epsilon Clinics is not responsible for any damages or claims relating directly or indirectly to medicinal cannabis use in children, pregnancy or breast-feeding.

Epsilon Clinics is not liable for any possible side effects, adverse effects or unknown risks associated with using medicinal cannabis.

Patient Responsibilities

It is your responsibility to:

- provide correct personal information and an up to date detailed medical history to your Epsilon Clinics doctor and clinical team.
- inform your prescribing doctor and the Epsilon Clinics team if cannabis medicine is ineffective against managing your symptoms and/or medical condition.
- inform your prescribing doctor and/or the Epsilon Clinics team about any reaction, side effect or adverse event you experience whilst receiving medicinal cannabis treatment.
- maintain your appointments and treatment under the care of your regular or referring doctor.

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Your personal information

Epsilon Clinics (“we", “us”) is committed to protecting your privacy and personal information. In accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988, the Health Records Act 2001* and the Australian Privacy Principles, Epsilon Clinics gathers patient information primarily for the purpose of delivering high-quality healthcare.

We collect and use the personal information provided by you during your treatment at Epsilon Clinics. Personal information collected by us will only be used for the purposes for which it was collected or as otherwise permitted by law and in accordance with our Privacy Policy. Our Privacy Policy is located on our website https://www.epsilonclinics.com.au/.

The information we collect may include medical test results, consultation notes, Medicare details, access to MyGov ‘My Health Records’ and details obtained from other health care providers (*e.g.* general practitioner, specialist correspondence).

We collect your personal information for the following purposes:

- Management of Epsilon Clinics administrative needs, including between us and the dispensing pharmacy.
- Billing, including adhering to Medicare requirements.
- To issue you with reminder notices by SMS and/ or email correspondence for treatment-related follow-ups and recalls
- Information sharing with other health care professionals involved in your healthcare, for the purposes of your care and treatment.
- For use by other health care professionals of Epsilon Clinics whilst you are receiving treatment.
- To monitor your progress whilst under the care of Epsilon Clinics.
- Disclosure required by a court of law regarding legal matters.
- Disclosure to a law enforcement agency for the purposes of an investigation.

SMS and email communications

As part of Epsilon Clinic’s commitment to providing patients with quality healthcare, Epsilon Clinics uses text (SMS) messages and emails to contact patients for appointment reminders, in relation to medical services epsilon clinics offers and other text messages (including marketing and promotional messages).

If you do not wish to receive communications via text or email, please email us.

Please note that by choosing not to receive text or email messages from Epsilon Clinics, you will not be able to access certain services, including digital resources to support your treatment plan and medicinal cannabis journey.

You can contact Epsilon Clinics at any time at Patients@EpsilonClinics.com.au to change your current consent arrangements.

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Acknowledgement and Consent

You acknowledge that:

- all required information concerning medicinal cannabis has been provided to you to make an informed decision before commencing treatment.
- the information you have provided is accurate and should any of your personal details or medical conditions change, you will notify Epsilon Clinics.
- you consent to receive healthcare services through telehealth consultations, which may include initial consultations, follow up appointments and ongoing care related to your treatment.
- you have had the opportunity to request additional information and understand that you can request more information at any time.
- you will carefully abide by the administration, dosage and frequency prescribed by your Epsilon Clinics doctor.
- you understand that medicinal cannabis treatment is individualised and may involve adjustments to the dosage over time. Your Epsilon Clinics clinician will determine the appropriate dosage and formulation of medicinal cannabis based on your specific medical condition.
- you understand the potential risks, possible side effects and complications of medicinal cannabis treatment.
- you understand that medicinal cannabis may not work for your symptoms or medical condition(s).
- you can at any time revoke, modify or otherwise limit your consent by notifying Epsilon Clinics in writing at Patients@EpsilonClinics.com.au
- all costs of accessing, purchasing, using and sundry of medicinal cannabis are your responsibility.
- sharing, selling, lending, trading or otherwise giving medicinal cannabis to anybody else is against the law & strictly prohibited.
- Epsilon Clinics may use or disclose your personal information when such use or disclosure is required or authorised by or under law or is reasonably necessary for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of criminal offences – this may include investigations concerning the improper use of medicinal cannabis.
- you are aware of the legislation applicable in your state or territory related to operating motor (and other) vehicles with the presence of THC in your oral fluid, blood or urine and that the detection of any THC in your system whatsoever is an offence in most states and territories.
- you understand that in most states and territories, having a prescribed medication will not serve as a justification for a driving offence for having THC in your system.
- you are responsible for complying with all laws, employment contracts and safety guidelines regarding medicinal cannabis treatment and cannabinoid levels tested found present in your blood serum, saliva, or urine.
- all personal information and medical records provided to Epsilon Clinics will be handled in accordance with Australian privacy laws and regulations. Epsilon Clinics will never disclose your information to third parties without your prior consent, except when required by law.
- Epsilon Clinics has a zero-tolerance policy for abusive, confrontational, or hostile behaviour towards Epsilon clinics staff. Further, you accept Epsilon Clinics' right to refuse treatment to you if you breach this policy.
- you have reviewed our Terms and Conditions (Ts&Cs) located on our website: https://www.epsilonclinics.com.au/ and, by signing below, you agree with our Ts&Cs.

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Signed Declaration

By signing this form, you acknowledge that you have been informed about the risks and benefits of medicinal cannabis, including the potential interactions between medicinal cannabis, other medications and supplements that you regularly take, alcohol, illicit drugs and other intoxicants, and that you understand the potential risks associated with its use.

By signing this form or providing your consent electronically, you acknowledge that you have read, understood and consented to the use of medicinal cannabis as part of your treatment plan. You understand that you have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.

By signing this form, you understand and consent to the use of your personal information as outlined above.

Please sign below confirming that you understand and agree to the previous statements regarding our use, collection, privacy and disclosure of your patient information.

Date: <Current Date d/mm/yyyy>

Patient full name: <Patient Full Name>

DOB (DD/MM/YYYY): <Patient DOB dd/mm/yyyy>

Sign Here _____

NOTE: For carers / legal guardians - If signed on behalf of a patient, I acknowledge that I accept full responsibility for medicinal cannabis use on behalf of the patient.

If applicable - legal guardian's name:

If applicable - carer's name:

PLEASE SEND ALL PAGES IN THIS DOCUMENT BACK TO EPSILON CLINICS