

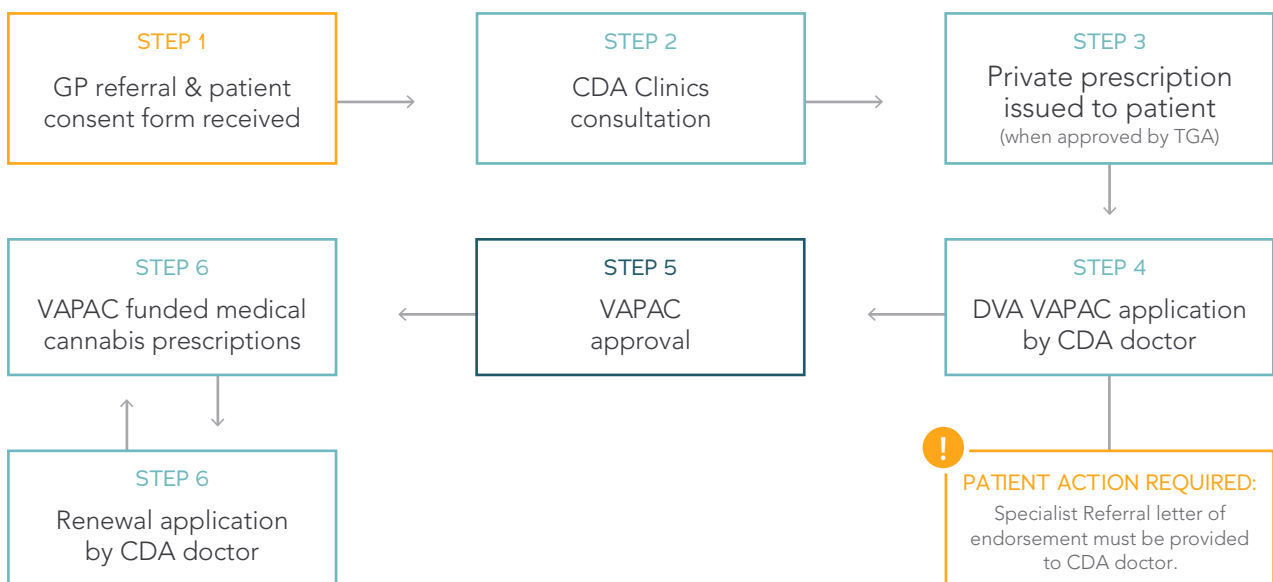
DVA Information

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR PATIENT JOURNEY WITH CDA CLINICS.

WILL THE DVA COVER MY MEDICAL CANNABIS TREATMENT?

The DVA subsidises medical cannabis treatment for eligible veterans through an approval process called VAPAC (Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre). **Please note:** The DVA has previously refused to subsidise veteran patients for PTSD and anxiety despite scientific evidence.

WHAT IS THE DVA REIMBURSTMENT APPLICATION PROCESS?



- 1 Submit GP referral, health summary and patient consent form

Patient registers with CDA Clinics and must submit a GP referral, health summary and patient consent form before a consultation can be booked. It is also recommended to submit the Specialist DVA Referral Form at this time, however it is not required to book an appointment.
- 2 CDA Clinics consultation

A CDA Clinics doctor or nurse will consult with the patient and discuss suitability, treatment plan and the TGA and DVA application processes. This consultation is privately billed (paid for by patient). Reimbursement can be applied for with DVA 1181 form but is not guaranteed.
- 3 Private prescription issued to patient (when approved by TGA)

Once approved by the TGA, an initial private prescription will be issued to the patient and products must be paid for by the patient. Patients can apply for reimbursement of their private prescription with DVA 1181 form. *Reimbursement by DVA is not guaranteed.*

- ④ **DVA VAPAC application by CDA doctor – Patient Action Required!**

Patient or specialist submits referral letter of endorsement (or Specialist DVA Referral Form). Once the specialist referral letter of endorsement (or Specialist DVA Referral Form) has been received by CDA Clinics, the CDA doctor will lodge the DVA VAPAC application. This can take up to eight weeks or more to be approved.
- ⑤ **VAPAC approval**

The DVA will receive and review the application – they will either approve, decline or request more information. Once approved, the DVA approval letter is sent to the doctor. The first approval generally lasts for 3 months.
- ⑥ **VAPAC funded medical cannabis prescriptions**

Upon accepting an application, the DVA may cover the consultation costs in addition to product, but this is not guaranteed. The process is the same for both in clinic and Telehealth consultations.
- ⑦ **Renewal application by CDA doctor**

VAPAC approvals need to be renewed with reports/submission by the doctor to VAPAC.
Please note: VAPAC approvals last for 3 to 12 months and are product specific.

COLLECTING INFORMATION FROM YOUR SPECIALIST DOCTOR

There are two ways a specialist can provide a referral letter of endorsement, in order for CDA Clinics to commence the DVA VAPAC application process.

Option A:

The specialist can complete the CDA Clinics Specialist DVA Referral Form on page 3 of this document.

Option B:

The specialist doctor can write a letter of endorsement which states the following:

I have assessed this patient and:

1. *This patient would clinically benefit from medicinal cannabis treatment.*
2. *I have outsourced to the doctors of CDA Clinics, the doctor prescribing and applying for the medicinal cannabis the, (a) mental health examination and suicide risk examination (b) confirmation of no substance use disorder and low risk of this (c) review and explanation of the relevant precautions and contraindications whilst using medicinal cannabis.*
3. *Quantify and qualify the problem and symptoms, and potential improvement in symptoms, mobility, ADLs, quality of life, etc, by trialling and using medicinal cannabis.*

Specialist DVA Referral Form

PATIENT TO COMPLETE

Full Name			
Phone		DOB (DD/MM/YYYY)	
Address		Email	
		DVA #	

PRACTITIONER TO COMPLETE

Practitioner stamp/details and signature (required) – must include doctor’s name and provider number

DVA ENDORSEMENT DETAILS

Dear DVA VAPAC,

This patient would likely clinically benefit from medicinal cannabis treatment.

As such, I have outsourced to the doctors of CDA Clinics, the prescribing and applying for medicinal cannabis from VAPAC. On mental health and suicide risk examination this patient is of low risk of substance use disorder and mental health complications.

I have advised the above-named patient of relevant precautions and contraindications whilst using medical cannabis (products containing THC are generally not appropriate for patients who): have a history of hypersensitivity to any cannabinoid or products use in manufacture (e.g. hemp seed oil), have severe and unstable cardio-pulmonary disease or risk factors for cardiovascular diseases, have a previous psychotic or concurrent active mood disorder, or are pregnant/ breastfeeding. The patient will have further education from CDA Clinics clinicians, and ongoing monitoring from CDA Clinics clinicians.

Primary Diagnosis:	Primary Symptoms:		
Secondary Diagnosis:	Severity:		
Medicinal cannabis therapy for the potential improvement in (select all that apply):			
Primary Symptoms	Mobility	ADLs	Mood
Quality of life	Sleep	Other (please specify) -	