

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).

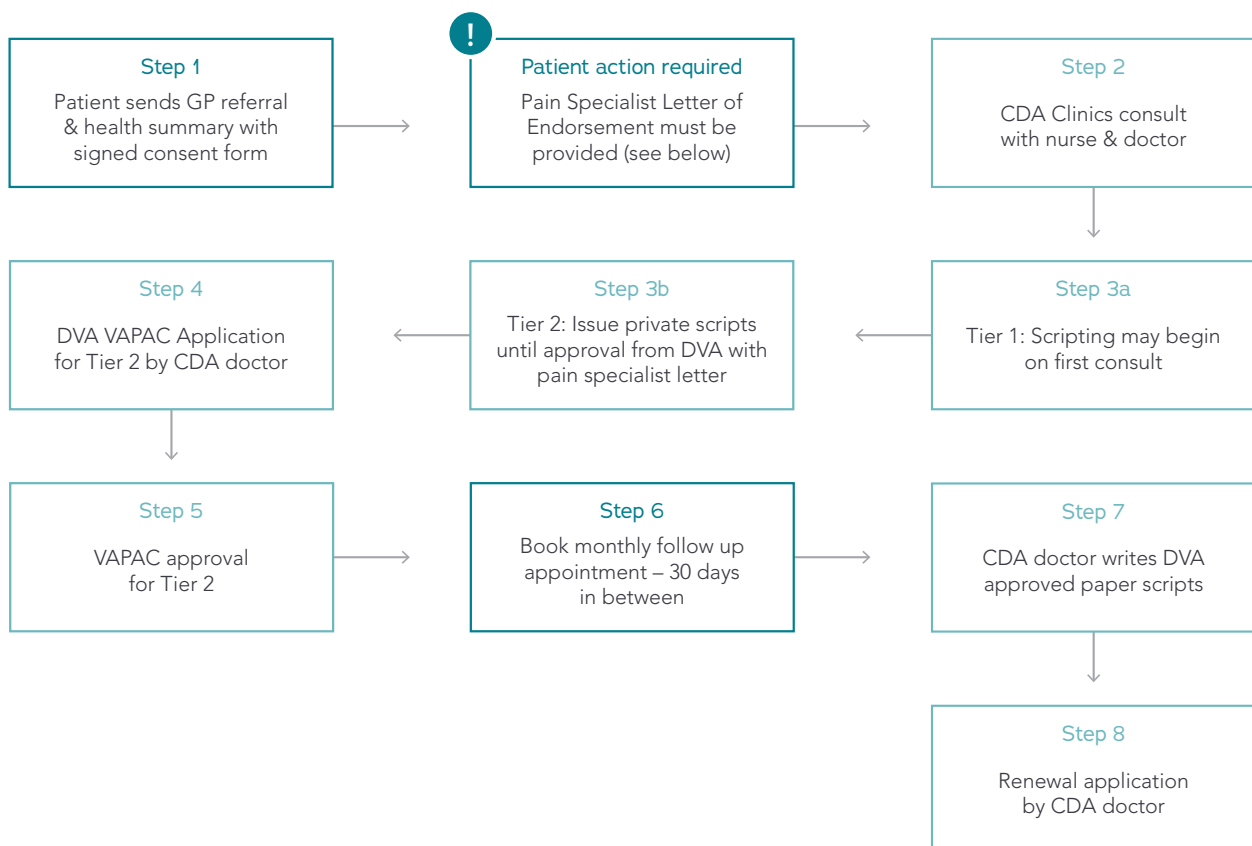
Please note:

The DVA has previously refused to subsidise veteran patients for PTSD and anxiety despite scientific evidence.

At present, the DVA will consider only funding medicinal cannabis for the following health conditions:

- chronic pain
- chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting
- palliative care indications
- anorexia and wasting associated with chronic illness such as cancer
- spasticity from neurological conditions
- refractory paediatric epilepsy

What is the DVA Reimbursement Application process?



- ① Patient provides required documents
 - Patient registers with CDA Clinics and must submit a GP referral, health summary and patient consent form before a prepaid consultation can be booked. It is also recommended to submit the Pain Specialist DVA Referral Form at this time, however it is not required to book an appointment.
 - **Patient action required: Pain Specialist DVA Referral Form**
 - DVA Pain Specialist Referral Form: cdaclinics.com.au/patient_forms
 - Obtaining a pain specialist referral form speeds up the process for Tier 2 Applications.
- ② CDA Clinics consult with nurse & doctor
 - A CDA Clinics nurse and doctor will consult with the patient and discuss suitability, treatment plan and the TGA and DVA application processes. This consult is privately billed (paid for by patient).
 - Reimbursement can be applied for with DVA 1181 form but is not guaranteed.
- ③ a. Tier 1 Scripting: The most streamlined pathway for DVA patients
 - CDA Clinics does not require any pain specialist or DVA paperwork
 - CDA doctors call the DVA and source approval number
 - Limited to 2x medicinal cannabis products with maximum daily use of up to 40mg of THC (excludes cannabis in dried herb / flower form, lotions, and carts)
 - If approved by DVA for Tier 1, scripts can be made under DVA authority to our chosen pharmacy familiar with the DVA process – therefore scripting can begin at the first consultb. Tier 2 Scripting: patients can commence as a Tier 1 whilst Tier 2 applications are in place
 - CDA Clinics requires Pain Specialist DVA Referral
 - Patients requiring more than 2 products and more than 40mg THC daily (excludes cannabis lotions and carts – private scripts only)
- ④ DVA VAPAC application for Tier 2 by CDA doctor
 - 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 for Tier 2
 - 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 CDA doctor. The first approval generally lasts for 3 months.
 - S8 prescriptions are required to be written monthly, whereas S4 prescriptions can have repeats.
- ⑥ Book monthly follow up appointment – 30 days in between
 - Consultations unfortunately are not funded by the DVA.
- ⑦ CDA doctor writes DVA approved prescriptions
 - DVA written paper scripts to dedicated pharmacy who knows the DVA process.
- ⑧ 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.

Tier 1

- CDA do not require any pain specialist or DVA paperwork
- Limited to maximum of 2 oral oils at any one time
- CBD oil (S4) and THC oil (S8) (excludes cannabis in dried herb / flower form, lotions and carts – private scripts only)
- Combined total of 40mg of THC or less per day or no THC
- Rebooking will vary from patient to patient, depending on supply given

Tier 2

- 3 or more products at any one time
- Combination of oral oils/dried herb flower that contain total of over 40mg/day of THC (excludes cannabis lotions and carts – private scripts only)
- Require a pain specialist (non-GP) referral letter to support application
- Rebooked monthly as only monthly supply is approved

**Patients can commence as Tier 1, and once a Pain Specialist Referral Letter and RPBS Medicinal Cannabis Tier 2 Application has been approved, can then become a Tier 2.*

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.*

DVA Resources

1800 552 580

PPO@dva.gov.au

dva.gov.au/providers/health-programs-and-services-our-clients/medicines/medicinal-cannabis-information

Pain 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) -	