



## DVA Information

### What's the process?

1. Patient's specialist is required to complete a Specialist DVA Referral Form. This can be done before or after the initial consult.
2. A CDA Doctor will consult with you regarding the application process and submit the application to the DVA.
3. The DVA VAPAC either approve or ask for more information, especially if not adequate justification provided.
4. Once approved, the DVA approval letter is sent to the Medical Cannabis Doctor for prescription. The approval process can take weeks to months and once approved, the doctor calls the DVA for a specific approval number for each prescription, i.e. a "RPBS prescription". The THC or Schedule 8 Medicines need to be written monthly without repeats; however CBD or Schedule 4 Medicines can have repeats.
5. The first approval generally lasts for 3 months before renewal which generally is much longer.

Please note that the DVA may reimburse you for costs already incurred upon completion of [D1181 Application for Reimbursement](#) form.

### Will DVA cover this?

The DVA does subsidize medical cannabis for veterans through an approval process, however in recent times have refused for PTSD and Anxiety despite evidence it works for some Veterans.

The process is the same for both in clinic and TeleHealth consultations, however the DVA (upon accepting an application) will cover consultation costs in addition to product for in-clinic but not TeleHealth.

### Specialist Doctor

Below are the two options for patients to collect information from their specialist doctor for Cannabis Doctors Australia to commence the DVA process.

#### Option A:

In order to be eligible for DVA to cover your medical expenses, please have your specialist Doctor write a letter stating:

#### I have assessed this patient and:

1. This patient would clinically benefit from Medicinal Cannabis treatment.
2. I have outsourced to the Doctors of Cannabis Doctors Australia, the Doctor prescribing and applying for the medicinal cannabis, (a) the 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.

#### Option B:

Alternatively, a patient can have their Doctor fill out the DVA Specialist form on the following page:

## SPECIALIST DVA REFERRAL FORM

### PATIENT DETAILS

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Full Name: | DOB:   |
| Phone:     | Email: |
| Address:   | DVA #: |

.....

### PRACTITIONER STAMP AND SIGNATURE:

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.

Quantify and qualify the problem and symptoms, and potential improvement in symptoms, mobility, ADLs, quality of life, etc by trialling and using Medicinal Cannabis: