

Cancard – Information for GPs

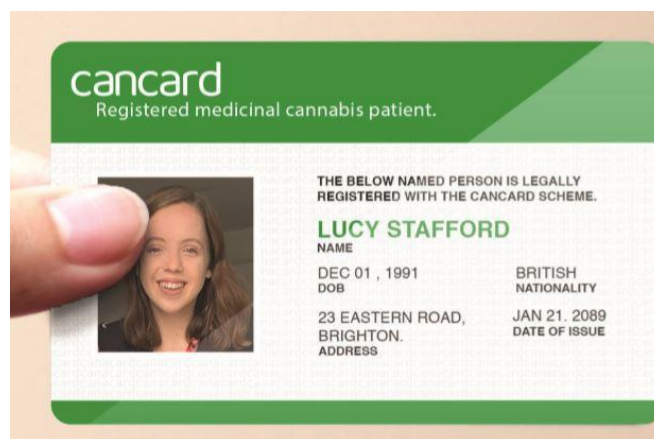
Cancard is a card (see image below) issued by a private company called Cancard Ltd, which is evidence that the cardholder is using self-sourced cannabis for medicinal purposes. Cancard website suggests a list of medical conditions that they consider qualify cannabis use is for medical reasons. In order to receive a Cancard, the person applying needs to provide their NHS number, GP's name, practice and email address. When applying for the Cancard the applicant is charged an administrative fee.

We are aware that many GP surgeries in England have received an email after 1st December from Cancard Ltd requesting the GP confirm their patient's diagnosis qualifies for medical cannabis and that the GP has discussed other licensed medicines. All medicinal cannabis products recommended for prescribing in Surrey Heartlands are hospital specialist only red drugs on Surrey PAD.

The Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care do not endorse and/or support the use of this card. The individuals within a number of organisations, who do endorse the card, are not speaking on behalf of their organisation (for example the Police). Note that to render possession of cannabis lawful the product must have been prescribed and supplied in accordance with The Misuse of Drugs (Amendments) (Cannabis and Licence Fees) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2018 (No.1055).

Recommendation to GPs

Cannabis product should be prescribed (and supplied) in line with the 2018 regulations in order for the cannabis to be in lawful possession. It is recommended that GPs **do not confirm** a diagnosis that qualifies a patient for medical cannabis if requested. Ask Cancard to contact the prescriber of the cannabis product, as it is not prescribed in primary care. This avoids imparting information, which may then be used to legitimise what may be an illicit supply of a cannabis (Class B) containing product.



Reference: [CD-Bulletin-Issue-17-December-2020.pdf](https://necsu.nhs.uk/CD-Bulletin-Issue-17-December-2020.pdf) (necsu.nhs.uk)