

Interim Chief Pharmaceutical Officer submission of 17 October 2022

PE1884/G: Make whole plant cannabis oil available on the NHS or alternative funding put in place

Thank you for the letter of 30 September 2022 from the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee relating to the above petition.

In the letter, the Committee seeks information about the application process for participating in the clinical trials connected to Cannabis Based Products for Medicinal use (CBPMs). As the Committee will be aware, these trials are being designed, pending the confirmation of a suitable product supply. Once a supply contract has been finalised with a manufacturer that meets the required quality standards, the study team will be able to initiate the formal trial set up process and confirm a date for patient recruitment to start. Until then, I am unable to confirm all of the patient and public communications that will be in place, when and immediately preceding, the trial is opening to recruitment.

That said, medicine policy officials have engaged with NHS England and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and I understand the expectation is for recruitment to primarily be through clinical discussion with potentially eligible patients facilitated by the recruiting sites that will all be NHS trusts and Health Boards in Scotland. In my discussions with clinicians in Scotland, they have indicated that they are willing to participate in these clinical trials to build the evidence base.

NHS England and the NIHR recommend individuals interested in potentially taking part in the trials mention this to the specialist clinician in charge of their care, who will be able to keep them updated once the trial set up is confirmed.