

Healing in Motion

Educational Guidance:

Medical Cannabis in Housing Settings

PAGE 1 — INTRODUCTION

Medical cannabis has been lawful in the United Kingdom since November 2018, when certain cannabis-based products for medicinal use were rescheduled and permitted under specialist prescription.

Despite this legal change, many patients continue to experience misunderstanding within everyday settings, including housing.

These situations rarely arise from hostility. More often they emerge from uncertainty: housing providers and support organisations may not be familiar with the current legal framework or how it applies in tenancy environments.

Healing in Motion is an educational initiative designed to support organisations in understanding the legal position, the lived reality for patients, and how proportionate responses can be developed in practice.

This short guidance pack provides a brief overview for housing professionals.

PAGE 2 — WHY THIS MATTERS IN HOUSING

Housing is one of the most common environments where medical cannabis patients encounter practical difficulty.

This can include:

- concerns about smell or vapour
- misunderstandings about legality
- confusion around tenancy agreements
- neighbours raising complaints
- uncertainty among housing officers about appropriate responses

In many cases the patient involved is lawfully prescribed medication by a specialist clinician.

However, without clear understanding, situations can escalate unnecessarily — creating stress for tenants while also placing housing providers in a difficult position.

Better understanding helps prevent this.

PAGE 3 — THE LEGAL POSITION

Cannabis-based products for medicinal use (CBPMs) were rescheduled in November 2018.

Under UK law:

- specialist doctors may prescribe cannabis-based medicines when clinically appropriate
- prescriptions are issued within regulated medical frameworks
- patients receiving lawful prescriptions are engaging in recognised medical treatment

This means that the presence of prescribed medical cannabis does not automatically indicate unlawful activity.

For housing organisations, the challenge is rarely determining legality alone — it is understanding how to respond proportionately when prescription status is confirmed.

PAGE 4 — THE HUMAN REALITY

Medical cannabis patients are typically managing chronic or complex health conditions.

Many individuals use their medication in order to stabilise daily functioning — enabling them to maintain housing, employment, and routine.

When misunderstandings occur in housing environments, the emotional burden can fall heavily on the patient.

They may feel required to repeatedly justify their legality or explain their medical treatment to multiple parties.

Educational resources such as Healing in Motion aim to reduce this tension by supporting clearer communication and informed responses.

PAGE 5 — PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN HOUSING SETTINGS

In housing environments, concerns may arise around:

- smell or vapour affecting neighbouring properties
- storage of prescribed medication
- tenancy clauses relating to substances
- safeguarding considerations
- neighbour complaints
- distinguishing prescribed use from illicit cannabis

These situations require balanced judgement.

Proportionate responses involve understanding both:

- the legal position of prescribed treatment
- the practical responsibilities housing providers hold when managing properties and communities

Clear guidance helps housing professionals navigate this space without unnecessary escalation.

PAGE 6 — RESPONDING PROPORTIONATELY IN HOUSING SETTINGS

Housing providers are often required to balance several responsibilities when concerns arise within tenancy environments.

These can include:

- maintaining tenancy agreements
- responding to neighbour complaints
- safeguarding residents
- managing property conditions

Where prescribed medical cannabis is involved, proportionate responses may include:

- recognising that prescribed cannabis may be lawful medical treatment
- distinguishing prescribed use from illicit activity
- confirming prescription status where appropriate
- engaging constructively with tenants before enforcement action
- avoiding unnecessary escalation where lawful treatment is confirmed

Educational guidance can help housing providers approach these situations with clarity and confidence.

PAGE 7 — THE HEALING IN MOTION FRAMEWORK

Healing in Motion is designed as an educational framework that helps authorities and organisations approach medical cannabis situations with clarity.

The framework focuses on:

- understanding the current legal position
- distinguishing medical prescription from illicit use
- recognising the lived reality of patients
- supporting proportionate, lawful responses

Rather than promoting advocacy or activism, the goal is practical understanding.

When organisations understand the context, interactions between housing providers and tenants tend to become calmer and more constructive.

PAGE 8 — WHO THIS RESOURCE SUPPORTS

The Healing in Motion framework is designed for organisations and professionals who may encounter medical cannabis patients in their work.

This includes:

- housing associations
- local authority housing teams
- supported housing providers
- homelessness and support services
- tenancy management professionals

The intention is not to provide medical advice, but to support clearer understanding of the legal and human context surrounding prescribed medical cannabis.

PAGE 9 — CLOSING

Understanding lawful medical cannabis use is increasingly relevant across multiple sectors.

For housing organisations in particular, clear information can help prevent unnecessary conflict while supporting both tenants and staff.

Healing in Motion aims to contribute to that understanding through practical education and calm discussion.

For further information or discussion, please contact:

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