



HEALING IN MOTION

People are always part of the picture

HOUSING SECTOR EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE

Medical Cannabis in Housing Settings

Operational Clarity for Lawful Medical Cannabis in Tenancy Environments

Structured guidance for housing associations, local authority housing teams, supported housing providers, and tenancy management professionals.

Demo Pack v1.0 | 2026 | Healing in Motion

Proportionate. Informed. Consistent.

01

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 position, patients continue to encounter misunderstanding within everyday environments, including housing settings.

These situations rarely arise from deliberate opposition. More often, they reflect uncertainty — where current legal frameworks are not fully understood or confidently applied within tenancy environments.

Where uncertainty is unaddressed

- Situations can escalate unnecessarily
- Tenant wellbeing is affected
- Housing providers face avoidable operational and legal risk

What HIM provides

- Understanding of the legal position
- Context around the lived reality for patients
- Structured support for proportionate responses

This guidance provides a structured overview for housing professionals operating within this space.

02

WHY THIS MATTERS IN HOUSING

Housing is one of the most common environments where practical issues relating to medical cannabis arise.

Concerns regarding smell or vapour from prescribed medication

Misunderstanding of lawful prescription status

Uncertainty around tenancy agreements and applicable clauses

Neighbour complaints based on perception rather than evidence

Lack of confidence in appropriate organisational response

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

Where expectations are unclear

- Responses become inconsistent
- Risk for tenants and providers increases
- Escalation occurs without clear justification

Where clarity exists

- Responses are consistent and proportionate
- Risk is reduced for all parties
- Situations are resolved without unnecessary conflict

Clarity reduces both organisational risk and tenant burden simultaneously.

03

THE LEGAL POSITION

Specialist doctors may prescribe cannabis-based medicines where clinically appropriate

Prescriptions are issued within regulated medical frameworks

Patients receiving lawful prescriptions are engaged in recognised medical treatment

The presence of prescribed medical cannabis does not in itself indicate unlawful activity.

For housing organisations, the challenge is rarely legality in isolation. It is the ability to apply proportionate, lawful responses once prescription status is understood.

Misinterpretation at this stage can lead to inappropriate escalation or decision-making that does not align with the legal framework.

04

THE HUMAN REALITY

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

For many individuals, treatment supports stability — enabling them to maintain housing, employment, and daily function.

When misunderstanding occurs within housing environments, the burden often shifts onto the patient.

Without clear understanding

Patients find themselves repeatedly required to explain or justify their treatment across multiple interactions — increasing stress and destabilising those actively trying to maintain routine and consistency.

With clear understanding

Housing settings reduce this burden and support more constructive engagement — protecting both tenant wellbeing and organisational integrity.

05

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN HOUSING SETTINGS

Concerns within housing environments may include:

Environmental concerns

- Smell or vapour affecting neighbouring properties
- Storage of prescribed medication
- Neighbour complaints

Policy and process concerns

- Tenancy clauses relating to substance use
- Safeguarding considerations
- Distinguishing prescribed use from illicit cannabis

These situations require balanced and informed judgement. Effective handling depends on understanding both the legal position of prescribed treatment and the operational responsibilities of housing providers.

Without this balance, responses may default to assumption rather than assessment. Structured guidance supports consistent and proportionate decision-making.

06 RESPONDING PROPORTIONATELY IN HOUSING SETTINGS

Housing providers are required to balance multiple responsibilities within tenancy environments:

Maintaining tenancy conditions
Responding to complaints proportionately
Safeguarding residents
Managing property standards

Where prescribed medical cannabis is involved, proportionate handling typically includes:

1	ACKNOWLEDGE	Respond to the situation calmly and without assumption. A complaint or concern does not confirm a breach — and a prescription does not confirm impairment.
2	CLARIFY	Establish the facts. Has prescription status been asserted? What is the nature of the concern? What are your actual obligations in this situation?
3	ASSESS CONTEXT	Consider the environment, the impact, and the legal position. Is the use lawful? Is the concern proportionate? What does your policy actually require?
4	APPLY PROPORTIONATE RESPONSE	Act on evidence, not assumption. Where lawful treatment is established and impact is minimal, no enforcement action may be required. Escalate only where a clear, evidenced threshold is met.
5	RECORD	Document the situation, the decision, and the rationale — factually and proportionately. A clear record protects both the tenant and the organisation.

Clarity at the point of decision is essential.

07

THE HEALING IN MOTION FRAMEWORK

Healing in Motion provides an operational framework to support organisations in navigating medical cannabis situations with clarity.

Legal context

Understanding the current legal position surrounding CBPMs in the UK

Human context

Recognising the lived reality of patients and what treatment actually supports

Organisational context

Supporting proportionate, lawful, and defensible responses in tenancy settings

The approach is not based on advocacy. It is based on clarity and consistency in application.

Where organisations understand the context, interactions tend to become more measured, and escalation is reduced.

08

WHO THIS RESOURCE SUPPORTS

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

Housing associations

Local authority housing teams

Supported housing providers

Homelessness and support services

Tenancy management professionals

The purpose is not to provide medical advice, but to support informed handling of situations where lawful medical cannabis is present.

09

CLOSING

Understanding lawful medical cannabis use is increasingly relevant across housing environments.

Where understanding is limited

- Unnecessary conflict can arise
- Responses become reactive
- Risk increases for tenants and providers

Where understanding is present

- Situations are managed proportionately
- Responses are consistent and defensible
- Tenant relationships are preserved

For housing providers, this is not simply a matter of awareness. It is a matter of consistent, lawful, and defensible decision-making.

Healing in Motion exists to support that clarity.

For further information or discussion:

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