

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_302_17

You asked:

I am researching the issue of the calls for relaxation of the drugs laws to permit cannabis to be used medicinally.

You may know that Newport West MP Paul Flynn, for example, is introducing a Ten-Minute Rule Bill on the matter next month.

One aspect of the debate is the use of Sativex, the cannabis-based oral spray. There have been noted difficulties in some patients accessing the drug. Please see: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-38571237/ms-patient-frustrated-over-access-to-sativex>

1. Can you please say how many Sativex prescriptions the health board has funded in the past year and since the drug was approved by [All Wales Medicines Strategy Group \(AWMSG\) for use within NHS Wales for the treatment of MS-related spasticity?](#)
2. Would the health board like to offer a comment about Sativex prescriptions and/or their funding?

Our response:

The Primary Care data is as follows:

- 50 items Sativex dispensed in the past 12 months (Jul 16 – Jun 17)
- 147 items since the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) approval (Aug 14)

We have not funded any Sativex prescriptions in secondary care, the prescribing would have been initiated by the tertiary centre (who provide neurology services for Cwm Taf) in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board hence no secondary care prescribing data in Cwm Taf.