

Re: Proposed amendments referred for scheduling advice to the Joint ACMS-ACCS #25

Regarding rescheduling of CBD oil & other cannabis based products in Australia.

I visited my son in Canada in March for a few weeks & during this time I used CBD oil orally as well as a topical variation for relief of chronic pain in my right arm shoulder, leg knee & groin as well as my lower back & both ankles & feet which I found to be of considerable positive benefit.

In June 2019 I had corrective bilateral foot surgery to attempt to alleviate arthritic pain in my ankles & toes & hereditary bunions which incapacitated me for eight weeks & involved two surgical procedures & ten days hospitalization plus additional weeks of incapacity.

I have consulted General Practitioners Neurosurgeons & Radiologists regarding chronic pain caused by spinal degeneration of my cervical spine C5/6 & C6/7 & my lumbar spine at L4/5 combined with foraminal narrowing & nerve constriction leading to considerable chronic & at times debilitating pain .

I have had a number of injections of Xylocaine & Dexamethazone into my spine in an attempt to alleviate this pain without success.

As these procedures involving injections of drugs directly into the spine can cause on occasion damage to surrounding structures, stroke, haemorrhage, paralysis (temporary & permanent) & in rare cases death I have found them painful emotionally & physically to receive.

These procedures are frightening to endure & as I've had no benefit on my attempts I cannot see any value in experiencing the considerable stress & discomfort these procedures involve.

I have been prescribed Meloxicam, with limited benefit by my GP, but as this medication is equivalent of taking 18 Ibuprophen a day & has the potential side effects of liver damage, impaired renal function, painful urination, blood clots, heart attack, peripheral edema, stroke, gastrointestinal ulceration & bleeding & perforation & stomach upsets (I have experienced a number of these symptoms personally to varying degrees) I also find the potential risks to the limited benefit gained unrealistic.

As I am under the care of a specialist Gastroenterologist for chronic GORD & gastrointestinal polyps I find to exacerbate my symptoms with this medication is only adding complications & further risk to my health.

I have a strong family history of stroke & heart disease losing to premature death my Grandmother father & sister to these conditions.

I found CBD oil oral & topical of distinctive benefit after using it for a few weeks & a very distinct return of strength of my symptoms once I was forced to cease using these natural products on return to Australia.

Please consider the health of Australian's to be able to use a natural herbal medication with positive results rather than the drugs proffered that cause many potential detrimental side effects & exacerbate chronic conditions.

Yours faithfully,

