

## **Just like any other medicine .... talking to consumers about driving and medicinal cannabis**

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**Background:** Medicinal cannabis has been legal in Australia since 2016, however most jurisdictions have prohibited patients from legally driving a motor vehicle under any circumstance. Several jurisdictions have/are implementing changes to allow medicinal cannabis patients to drive a motor vehicle under certain conditions. This requires a change for health practitioners – from just saying ‘no’ to driving, to having to provide information and advice to patients, and to consider prescribing practices, to optimise patient and community safety regarding safer driving practices.

**Description of Intervention:** The paper describes:

- The evidence regarding cannabis use and driving impairment, contextualised against other commonly used medications
- The impact of different medicinal cannabis regimens upon driving (considering route, doses and cannabinoid profiles)
- Information and advice for consumers regarding safer driving practices when using medicinal cannabis

**Implications for Practice or Policy:** There are hundreds of thousands of Australians prescribed medicinal cannabis, many of whom drive a motor vehicle, and many people who have avoided medicinal cannabis because of the historical restrictions against driving. Implications of changes in cannabis-driving laws regarding medicinal cannabis for consumers, health care providers and policy makers will be discussed.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** NL has received funding for unrelated research from Camurus AB, and honoraria for professional development activities from Camurus and Indivior. No grants were received in the development of this paper. NL is a Board member of the Australian Medicinal Cannabis Association