

As medical cannabis gains attention in the UK, some clinics promote its use broadly. But can a clinic legally and ethically say medical cannabis works for *everything*? Before anyone jumps on such claims, it's important to understand the regulatory landscape, prescribing rules, and the limits of the evidence base. Knowing this helps patients avoid unrealistic promises, hidden risks, and clinics that overpromise without solid backing.

Regulation and Clinic Oversight

All private clinics in England, including those offering medical cannabis consultations, must register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC's role is to inspect and ensure that clinics provide safe and effective care. When you look for a medical cannabis provider, your first question should be, **"What is your registration number?"** This identifies if the clinic operates under proper oversight.

The CQC requires clinics to:

- Have appropriate systems to manage patient safety.
- Ensure clinical staff are qualified and competent.
- Maintain clear records and consent processes.
- Provide accurate information on treatment risks and benefits.

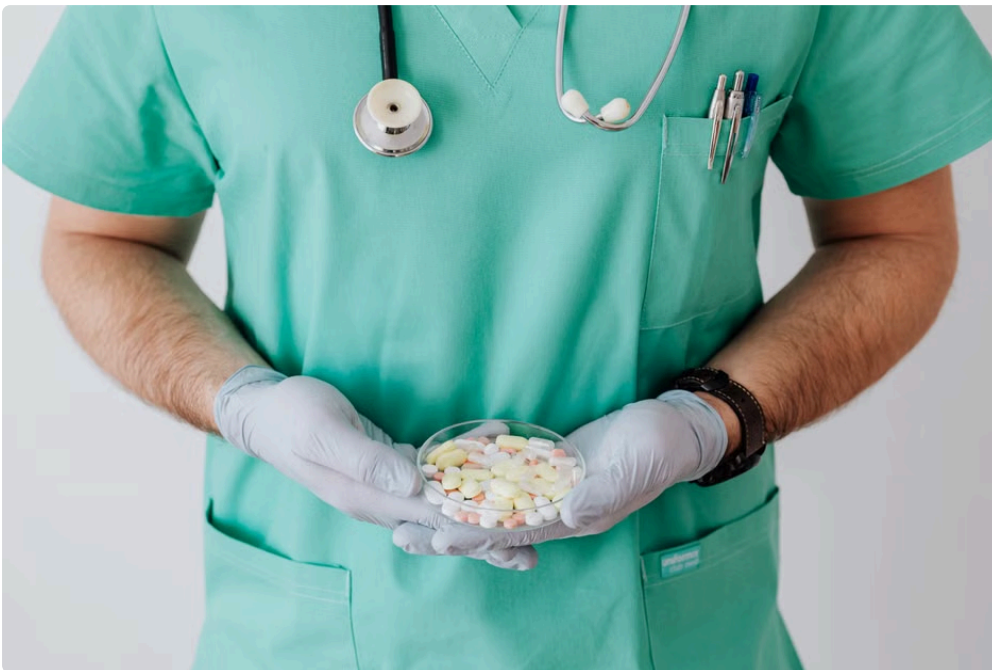
Clinics making sweeping claims that cannabis cures or helps *everything* risk falling foul of the CQC standards. Such claims can mislead patients, potentially causing harm if patients delay or avoid proven therapies.

Who is Legally Allowed to Prescribe Medical Cannabis?

Under UK law, only registered medical practitioners can prescribe medical cannabis. This means:

- Doctors must be on the General Medical Council (GMC) Specialist Register or have a full licence to practise medicine in the UK.
- Prescribers must act within their competence and scope of practice.

It is a red flag if a clinic cannot name the doctor, or if the so-called "specialist doctors" are not verifiable via the GMC or Specialist Register. Trustworthy clinics will provide clear information about their prescribing clinicians and their expertise in medical cannabis treatment.



Specialist Competence and Scope

Medical cannabis treatment covers several conditions like epilepsy, chronic pain, and multiple sclerosis—with varying levels of evidence supporting its use. Doctors prescribing cannabis should have specialist competence aligned with the patient's condition. For instance, a neurologist prescribing cannabis for epilepsy would be appropriate, whereas a general practitioner without such experience may not be.

The GMC expects doctors to know the limits of their expertise and seek advice or refer patients when needed. Clinics claiming that cannabis treats all diseases overlook the important requirement of specialist competence.

Unlicensed Medicines and Risk Disclosure

Most medical cannabis products in the UK are unlicensed medicines. This means:

- They have not gone through the full UK regulatory approval process.

- Evidence about safety, dosage, and efficacy is less robust compared to licensed medicines.
- Prescribers must explain this to patients before starting treatment.

Ethical prescribing requires transparent disclosure about:

1. The unlicensed status of cannabis products.
2. Possible benefits and realistic outcomes based on current evidence.
3. Known risks and side effects.
4. Alternative treatments available.

Failure to adequately disclose these factors can expose patients to harm and clinics to regulatory actions.

Evidence Base Limits and Realistic Outcomes

The evidence base for medical cannabis is still developing. While some high-quality trials show benefit in certain conditions, these are limited in number and scope. Key points include:

- Strong evidence mainly exists in childhood epilepsy syndromes like Dravet's and Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.
- Supporting data for chronic pain, muscle spasticity, and chemotherapy-induced nausea is moderate but not definitive.
- Claims that cannabis is effective for *everything* lack scientific support.

Clinics making broad claims ignore these evidence base limits. Responsible providers emphasize what is known, what is uncertain, and avoid implying cannabis is a cure-all.

Overpromising: A Red Flag for Patients

When a clinic declares that medical cannabis treats every condition or promises miraculous results, it should raise alarm bells. Such overpromising:

- Sets unrealistic patient expectations.
- May lead to misuse or delays in receiving proven treatments.
- Covers up gaps in specialist expertise and clinical governance.
- Risks regulatory scrutiny from the CQC and complaints to the GMC.

Patients are better served by clinics that state:

- What cannabis can and cannot do based on current evidence.
- The legal status and prescribing framework.
- Potential outcomes tailored to individual conditions.
- Clear disclosures of risks, benefits, and alternatives.

Summary: What to Look For in a Medical Cannabis Clinic

Factor What to Expect from a Reputable Clinic Red Flags to Avoid CQC Registration Clinic openly shares registration number and meets safety standards. No registration or unwillingness to share ID. Prescribing Doctor(s) Named doctors listed on GMC Specialist Register with relevant expertise. "Specialists" not named or unverifiable clinicians. Claims About Medical Cannabis Balanced information focused on evidence-based conditions. Claims that cannabis treats everything or promises cures. Risk and Benefit Disclosure Clear explanation of

unlicensed status, risks, and realistic outcomes. Minimizing or ignoring risks and uncertainties. Consultation and Consent Proper assessment and informed consent process. Rushed assessments or hidden fees in subscriptions.

Final Thoughts

While medical cannabis offers hope for some patients, it is not a panacea. Clinics that claim it works for everything are not just misleading but <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2026/08/334132/what-makes-a-high-quality-medical-cannabis-clinic/> may be operating outside best practice and regulatory standards. Patients should seek out transparent providers who respect clinical governance, provide clear evidence-based information, and openly discuss the realistic benefits and risks.

Before starting treatment:

1. Ask for the clinic's CQC registration number and verify it.
2. Confirm the prescribing doctor's identity and GMC registration.
3. Request detailed information on the evidence base relevant to your condition.
4. Demand clear disclosures about unlicensed medicine status and risks.
5. Beware of any promises that sound too good to be true.

Staying informed protects your health and supports safe access to medical cannabis when appropriate.