

The rising interest in cannabis-based products for medical use has sparked many questions, particularly about the safety and quality of products purchased online. While some private companies like Releaf offer cannabis-related products through their websites, it's vital to understand what the NHS says about their reliability, safety, and the clinical process involved before starting [headlinemagazine.co](https://www.headlinemagazine.co) treatment.

Why the Quality of Cannabis Products Bought Online is a Concern

When people consider buying cannabis products online, they often think about convenience and speed. However, this approach carries important risks:

- **Unknown quality:** Many online products lack proper labelling or regulation, meaning the potency and purity can't be guaranteed.
- **Unknown contents:** Without official testing, products might contain contaminants or incorrect levels of active ingredients.
- **NHS warning:** The NHS explicitly warns against self-medicating with unregulated cannabis products due to potential health hazards.

Using cannabis products without professional advice could do more harm than good, especially if there's no proper assessment or follow-up.

The Importance of Assessment Before Choosing Treatment

One of the NHS's key messages is that no treatment, including cannabis medications, should be started without a thorough clinical assessment. This includes:

- **Reviewing medical history:** Your doctor needs to know about existing conditions, medications, and previous treatments you've tried.
- **Setting realistic goals:** Cannabis-based medicines aren't a cure-all; their benefits and potential side effects need close consideration.
- **Discussing alternative treatments:** Your clinician will explore other options first, based on established evidence.

Purchasing online skips these important steps, increasing the risk of ineffective or harmful use.



Using Clinic Websites and NHS Guidance Pages

There are tools available to help understand if medical cannabis is appropriate. Reputable clinical websites and NHS guidance pages offer information on:

- Eligibility criteria for prescribing cannabis-based medicines
- Expected treatment pathways
- How to prepare for specialist appointments

Patients can use these resources to ask informed questions and avoid rash decisions based on social media or online advertising.

Medical History and Prior Treatments Matter

The NHS emphasises that cannabis-based products are often considered only after conventional treatments have been explored. For example, in cases of chronic pain, epilepsy, or multiple sclerosis symptoms, doctors look at what medications and therapies you've tried before considering cannabis treatments.

Ignoring this step and self-medicating with online products means:

- You might miss interactions with other medicines you are taking.
- Conditions masquerading as another problem might go unrecognised.
- There is no professional monitoring of possible side effects or effectiveness.

Good clinical practice involves building a full picture of your health before prescribing anything new.

Follow-up and Monitoring: The Treatment Isn't Over at Purchase

Unlike buying a product online where the transaction ends after payment, medical cannabis treatment involves ongoing care.

- **Regular check-ins:** Doctors monitor how the treatment is working and adjust doses or try alternatives as needed.

- **Addressing side effects:** Some patients experience dizziness, fatigue, or mood changes — these need professional support.
- **Confirming continued suitability:** Cannabis products might be discontinued if risks outweigh benefits.

Purchasing online typically means no professional monitoring, which risks complications going unnoticed or untreated.

The Realistic Cost of Cannabis Treatment Over Time

One common mistake people make is focusing only on the price of their first cannabis product purchase — often advertised online without mentioning follow-up costs or ongoing prescriptions.

In reality, treatment costs include:

1. Initial specialist assessment fees (in private clinics or NHS referrals)
2. Prescription costs, which depend on exact preparations and dosage
3. Follow-up appointments to monitor progress
4. Possible adjustments in medication or additional therapies

The NHS reminds patients to consider total costs across months or even years, rather than a single upfront price. Websites like Releaf that advertise cannabis products should not be mistaken for a full clinical service offering this support.

Why Exact Appointment Prices Can Be Misleading

Many private clinics list a single “initial consultation” fee without confirming the costs of repeat visits or detailed assessments required. The NHS recommends asking these questions to any clinic before booking, ensuring you avoid surprises later.



Question to Ask Reason What does the consultation include? To understand if it covers detailed history-taking and diagnostics Are follow-up appointments required? If so, at what cost? Follow-up is essential for safe treatment and may incur additional fees Is the prescription cost included or separate? Medication costs vary widely and can add up over time

Summary

While the idea of buying cannabis products online may seem appealing, the **NHS strongly advises caution** due to:

- **Unknown quality** and **contents** that could harm your health
- The need for comprehensive **assessment** before deciding on treatment
- The importance of monitoring through **follow-up appointments**
- The reality of **ongoing costs** beyond just the first purchase

Using trusted resources like NHS guidance pages and verified clinic websites, such as Releaf (which is transparent about its products but does not replace clinical advice), can help you move forward safely and realistically.

If you or a loved one are considering medical cannabis, make an appointment with a qualified healthcare professional who can provide a full assessment and outline an appropriate treatment plan.

Remember, good healthcare is a partnership — not a quick online purchase.