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At this point in time there are only a few approved pharmaceutical forms of cannabis-based medicine available by prescription.

**MARINOL-(Dronabinol)**
Marinol is a synthetic form of THC sold in pill form and mixed with sesame oil.

It is used to help with nausea and vomiting and for relief from some of the many unwanted side effects that chemotherapy patients typically go through.

Marinol does not work as well as real THC because it takes a long time to absorb, leaving the patient waiting for up to 4 hours before feeling any of its benefits.

**CESAMET-(NABILONE)**

Another synthetic version of THC.

It has been out for over twenty years but only used in America since 2006 as a treatment for nausea and vomiting experienced from chemotherapy for cancer.
Sativex-(Nabiximols)

In 2005 Sativex became the first approved prescription medication made from cannabis plants.

Sativex is currently available in Canada, Germany, UK, New Zealand, and Spain.

It is currently going through trials in many other countries, including the United States.

Sativex is commonly used for patients suffering from Multiple Sclerosis.

Sativex is half THC and half CBD.
CANNABINOIDs:

Well over 100 cannabinoids have been discovered in cannabis.

THC is by far the most found and discussed.

Cannabinoids dissolve in alcohol, butter, fats, and oils due to the fact that they are fat-soluble.

Because cannabinoids are fat-soluble, they are easily used in cakes, cookies, shakes, dressings, brownies, and many other types of foods.

In order to work effectively, it is imperative to heat cannabis in order to cause a conversion from cannabinoid acid into active and usable THC.
Because edibles are ingested and must pass through the liver, the effects take longer, sometimes as long as 3 or 4 hours before feeling them.

Cannabis Butter or “Cannabutter” is the most commonly used method when making edibles.

It is butter that has been infused with cannabinoids.

Cannabis butter can be made on a stove top, in a crockpot, or in a double boiler.

To make cannabis butter all that is done is:

- Combine dried cannabis with butter and place it on the stovetop or in the crockpot at low heat (keep below 280 degrees Fahrenheit).
- After heating for at least an hour, carefully strain the remaining plant material and catch the butter in a dish.
- Let cool in a refrigerator before use.
Cannabis Butter can be used in any dish that uses butter in it.

**Cannabis Oil or “Canna-Oil”** is simply cooking oil that has been infused or mixed with cannabinoids.

![Image of cannabis oil](image)

It can be extracted by heating up oil and dried cannabis at a low temperature (not to exceed 280 degrees Fahrenheit).

Cannabis Oil can be used in any recipe that used oil in the ingredients.

**Cannabis Liquor** is liquor that has been infused with cannabinoids.

It is often added to coffee and teas.

**Cannabis Tinctures** are most commonly made by using ethanol alcohol to extract cannabinoids from plant matter.
Tinctures are often put in a spray bottle and absorbed sublingually under the tongue and into the mucous membranes.

Many patients who find smoking of cannabis to be too harsh find that using tinctures is a great way to enjoy the effects of cannabis without any stress that inhalation can cause.
Topical Cannabis is made into creams and salves and is used for strains, inflammation, herpes, and skin allergies.

CB1 & CB2 receptors on the skin absorb the topical cannabis creams.

Topicals are applied directly to the skin to areas that are showing discomfort.

Because topical cannabis is absorbed through the skin, it does not produce a psychoactive effect like smoking or eating cannabis does.
Topical cannabis has been proven effective for such ailments as:

- Acne
- Arthritis
- Back Pain
- Cramps
- Fever Blisters
- Herpes
- Psoriasis

Side Effects of Marijuana Use:

It is absolutely impossible to overdose on marijuana. Marijuana is one of the safest drugs in the world.

Although it is incredibly safe to use, there are some side effects that may cause discomfort in some users, such as:

- Anxiety
- Drowsiness/sleepy
- Appetite stimulation/hungry
- Redness in the eyes
- Short–term memory loss
- Loss of coordination
EXTRACTS AND CONCENTRATED FORMS OF CANNABIS

Although in the United States most people choose dried flowers or buds as their method of using cannabis, in other countries it is more common to choose concentrated cannabis and extracted versions.

The most commonly used forms of concentrates are:

- Kief
- Hashish
- Hash Oil

**Kief** is a powder that falls off the leaves and flowers of the cannabis buds and plant. Kief can be caught in a mesh screen and pressed into cakes. Some people like to sprinkle kief on their foods, or simply add some on top of a bowl of packed dried herbs.

**Hashish** is compressed resin. Hash is often pressed together by hand, or collected in a series of mesh-lines bags known as “bubble bags”.

Hash can be very potent, with THC content as high as 80%!

The best hash is usually soft to the touch.

Most people mix hash with bud in a packed bowl, while others like to vaporize it, eat it, or even smoke it in a joint.

**Hash Oil** comes from mixing together and extracting resin and oils from the cannabis plant.

Hash oil can have very high levels of THC, as much as 90%!

Like hash, hash oil can be used in a variety of ways, including in a vaporizer, on top of dried bud, in a joint, bong, or even on food.

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