

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

For participants intending to complete this study and their whanau

Medicinal Cannabis Perceptions and Dosage Form Preferences Amongst Neuropathic Pain Patients in New Zealand

Research team:

Name of Supervisors:

Dr Sara Hanning, Senior Lecturer, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Professor Saeid Baroutian, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Name of Student Researcher:

Marc Lewis, PhD candidate, Faculty of Engineering and Design - Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering

What does the study involve?

We would like to invite you, as someone 16 years or over and who has experienced neuropathic or chronic pain (pain lasting for more than 3 months) to participate in an anonymous survey to find out more about neuropathic pain patient dosage form preferences (pill, capsule, tincture etc.) and perceptions around medicinal cannabis to treat neuropathic pain. You will complete an online survey that will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

At the end of the survey you can opt-in to receive a summary of findings as well as being informed about future related research. This will be done by navigating you to a secondary survey that will be managed by a third party outside of the research team who has signed a confidentiality agreement (to maintain anonymity and confidentiality). Here, you will provide a contact phone number or email as well as a first name so that a summary of findings can be provided. You will also have the opportunity to enter a prize draw through this method.

Benefits and risks

There are no direct risks or benefits to you by participating in the survey. There may be an indirect benefit in better understanding your own personal pain conditions by answering the questions put forward in this study. Responses will also help to inform the design and production of more targeted therapies for neuropathic pain, which will benefit the patient population.

As an acknowledgement of the time taken to complete the survey, at the end of the questions you will have an opportunity to enter a prize draw to win one of five \$100 Prezzy cards.

Rights of the participant(s)

Participation is voluntary:

Participation is voluntary and will not disadvantage you in any way.



Withdrawal from participation and withdrawal of data:

You have the right to stop participation and not complete the survey at any time without giving a reason and without penalty. As it is anonymous, questions that have been answered cannot be withdrawn. However, you can stop answering questions or exit the survey at any time without penalty. Incomplete surveys will be automatically submitted within 48 hours of starting.

Confidentiality and anonymity:

The survey is anonymous. There is a consent statement where you indicate that you consent to participate. No personal information will be recorded or identifiably linked to your survey answers.

Any report or discussion of the information collected will be done in a way that does not identify the participant as the source of the information. No names/identifying information will be used in reporting the research and the researcher will keep participants' identity confidential. Participation or nonparticipation of employees will not affect employment or relationship with the organisation.

What will happen with the information provided?

All information collected in this research will be securely stored in University of Auckland-managed storage, for six years then permanently deleted. Computer files will be password-protected. The only individuals with access to the survey data is the research team. No identifying information from the survey will be collected.

Responses will inform the future development of new medicinal cannabis formulations to treat neuropathic pain. Findings will be reported as part of the PhD thesis of the student researcher as well as in academic journals and conference presentations.

When the study is finished, a summary of the findings will be sent to people who requested one. This is expected to be distributed in 2026.

Contact Details

If you require more information about this study, please contact Marc Lewis (Student Researcher)

marc.lewis@auckland.ac.nz, Sara Hanning (Supervisor) via email s.hanning@auckland.ac.nz or phone: +64 9 923 5386 or Saeid Baroutian (Supervisor) s.baroutian@auckland.ac.nz.

To talk to the Head of the School of Pharmacy about this project, please contact Associate Professor Shane Scahill via email: s.scahill@auckland.ac.nz or phone: +64 9 923 9442.

For concerns of an ethical nature, you can contact the Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at ahrec@auckland.ac.nz or at 373 7599 ext. 83711, or at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.

Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee on 05/05/2025 for three years, expiring 05/05/2028.
Reference number 27560.