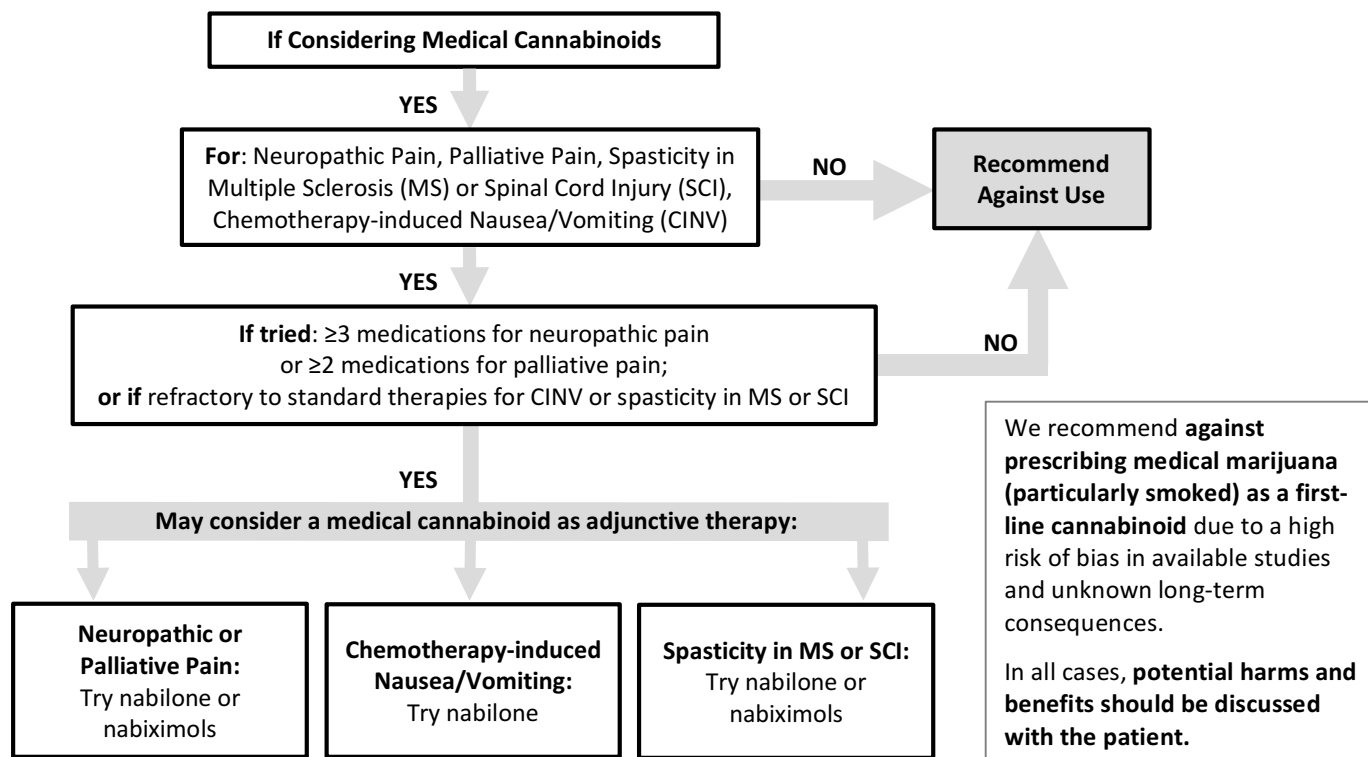


# Medical Cannabinoids: Guideline Summary

Figure 1. Medical cannabinoid prescribing algorithm.



## Percentage of people experiencing harms

Type of harm	Cannabinoids	Placebo
Sedation	50%	30%
“Feeling high”	35%	3%
Dizziness	32%	11%
Speech disorders	32%	7%
Ataxia/Muscle twitching	30%	11%
Hypotension	25%	11%
Numbness	21%	4%
Psychiatric	17%	5%
Euphoria	15%	2%
Dysphoria	13%	0.3%
Impaired memory	11%	2%
Withdraw due to harms	11%	~3%
Dissociation/Acute psychosis	5%	0%

## Percentage of people experiencing benefits

Benefits	Cannabinoids	Placebo
Chronic Pain (≥30% reduction after 4 weeks)		
Neuropathic pain	38%	30%
Palliative pain	30%	23%
Chemotherapy-induced nausea/vomiting (in 1 day)		
Control of nausea & vomiting	47%	13%
Spasticity (≥30% improvement after 6 weeks)		
Spasticity	35%	25%

## Daily doses and costs

Drug	Daily Dose <sup>2</sup>	Approximate cost/month
Nabilone* <sup>1</sup>	2 to 6 mg	\$94 to \$305
Nabiximols*	4 to 12 sprays	\$226 to \$903
Medical Marijuana Dried	1 to 3 g typical use	\$250 to \$750 Based on \$8.37/g

\*Manufacturer list price, does not reflect pharmacy dispensing fees.

<sup>1</sup>Only generic nabilone covered by most provincial drug plans.

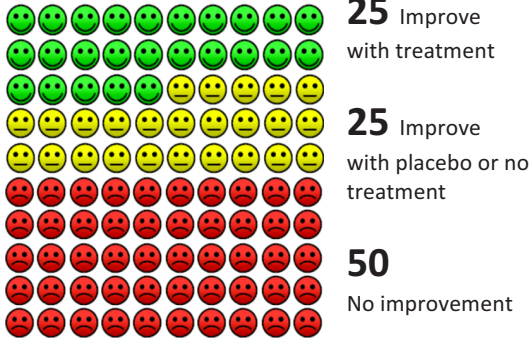
<sup>2</sup>Studied doses: Nabilone 0.5mg to 8mg/day, nabiximols 4 to 48 sprays/day, smoked marijuana had THC concentrations ranging 1 to 8% up to three times a day as tolerated. Daily doses from drug monographs and Health Canada.

# Neuropathic Pain: Pharmacotherapy Treatment

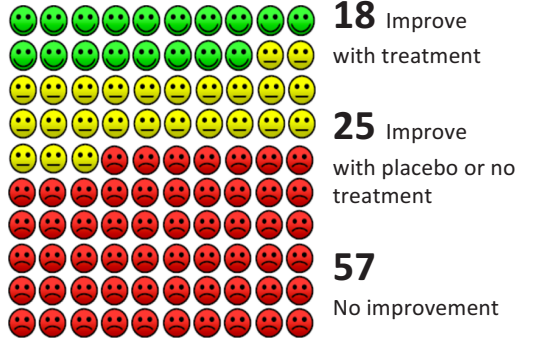
## Outcome: Meaningful (~30%) Pain Improvement

Ordered by decreasing estimated efficacy

### Amitriptyline

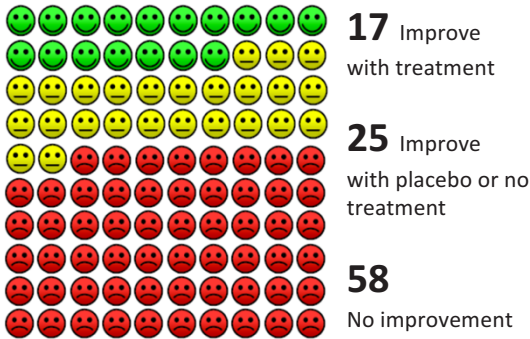


### High Dose Opioids\*

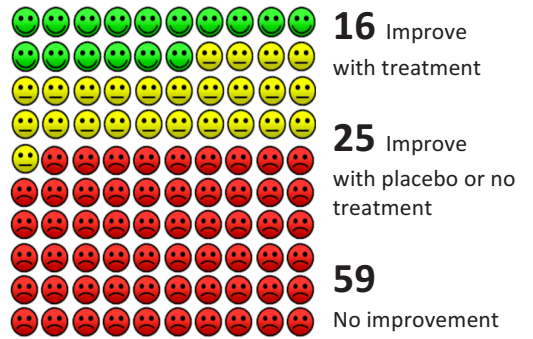


\*60-110mg oral morphine per day

### Venlafaxine



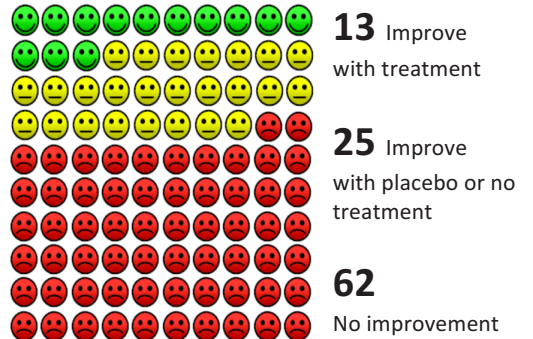
### Pregabalin



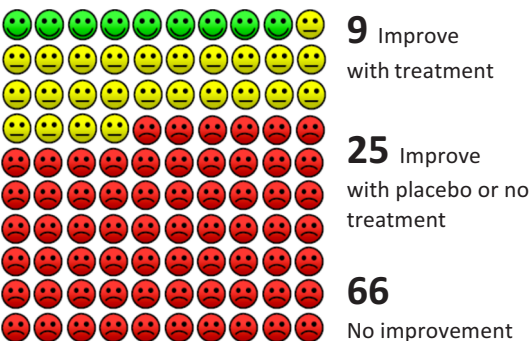
### Gabapentin



### Duloxetine



### Cannabinoids



#### Limitations

1. Based on indirect comparisons.
2. Timeframe ~4 to 12 weeks.
3. Details on methods available in online supplement.



Improve with treatment



Improve with placebo or no treatment



No improvement