

If you're considering medical cannabis treatment in the UK, it's essential to ask the right questions before booking an appointment. The medical cannabis landscape here is carefully regulated, but that doesn't mean every clinic operates at the same standard. Understanding clinic oversight, legal prescribing rules, risk disclosure for unlicensed medicines, and specialist competence can save you time, money, and potential health risks.

Below, I'll walk you through the key questions you should ask any medical cannabis clinic before you commit to a consultation. I'll also explain why these questions matter, referencing official bodies like the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the General Medical Council (GMC) Specialist Register.



1. What is Your Clinic's Registration Number With the Care Quality Commission (CQC)?

The CQC is the independent regulator of health and social care providers in England, including medical clinics. Any clinic offering regulated services should be registered with the CQC.

Why ask? The registration number confirms the clinic is officially overseen and inspected for safety, quality, and patient experience. Unregistered clinics may not follow moroccoworldnews.com vital safety standards.

What to do with the number: You can check the clinic's registration status and inspection reports on the CQC website. Look for recent inspections, rating scores, and any warnings or notices.

2. Who Will See Me — Name and Qualifications of the Prescribing Doctor

"Specialist doctors" is often used as a marketing phrase, but it's crucial to know who will actually assess your case and prescribe treatment.

- **Ask for the doctor's full name and GMC number.** Confirm that they are licensed to practise medicine in the UK.
- **Check if the doctor is on the GMC Specialist Register** for any relevant specialty such as pain management, neurology, palliative care, or psychiatry. This indicates recognized training and expertise.

- **Confirm their experience with medical cannabis prescribing.** Not all doctors are familiar with cannabis medicines, which remain unlicensed for most indications in the UK.

Why ask? Only registered medical practitioners can legally prescribe cannabis-based products for medicinal use. Knowing the clinician's credentials reduces the risk of poor advice or inappropriate treatment.

3. What Medical Conditions and Symptoms Do You Consider Within Your Scope?

Medical cannabis isn't officially licensed in the UK for every condition. The NHS permits specialist doctors to consider it primarily for:

- Severe epilepsy
- Spasticity from multiple sclerosis
- Nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy
- Short-term relief of severe neuropathic pain

Why ask? Clinics claiming cannabis “works for everything” are stretching the evidence. Reputable clinics will clearly outline the conditions they treat and the limits of medical cannabis use according to current law and evidence.

4. Are Your Cannabis Medicines Licensed or Unlicensed? What Are the Risks?

There are very few licensed cannabis-based medicines in the UK. Most preparations prescribed by private clinics are unlicensed. This has important implications:

- **Unlicensed medicines:** Not authorized by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Their safety and efficacy are not fully evaluated.
- **Full disclosure:** The clinic must inform you about the unlicensed status and potential risks.
- **Risk disclosure in writing:** Look out for detailed consent forms and patient information leaflets.

Why ask? Understanding unlicensed medicine risks ensures you make an informed choice rather than being sold a “miracle cure”. Providers have a legal obligation to be transparent about this.

5. What Is the Follow-Up Plan for Monitoring Treatment and Side Effects?

Medical cannabis treatment often requires careful dose adjustments and monitoring for side effects, interactions, and effectiveness.

Ask about:

- Scheduled follow-up consultations (in-person or remote)
- How they track your progress and side effects
- Options for stopping treatment if it's ineffective or causes problems
- Support if you have questions or adverse reactions between visits

Why ask? Nobody should be left unsupported after a prescription. Clinics that don't have a clear follow-up plan may be ignoring patient safety.

6. What Are Your Fees? Are There Any Hidden Costs?

Be upfront about all fees, including:

- Consultation fees
- Dispensing or delivery charges
- Ongoing prescription costs or subscription models

Why ask? Some clinics bundle fees or hide medicine dispensing charges in subscription plans. Transparency prevents unwelcome surprises.

7. How Do You Handle Patient Privacy and Record-Keeping?

Confidentiality and secure handling of medical records are vital.



Ask:

- How your information is stored and protected
- If records are shared with your NHS GP (with your permission)

Why ask? Clinics must comply with UK data protection laws (GDPR). Be wary if a clinic avoids discussing this.

Summary Table: Key Questions to Ask Your Medical Cannabis Clinic

Question	Why It Matters	What to Verify
What is your CQC registration number?	Confirms legal oversight and quality standards	Check registration and inspection rating on CQC website
Who will see me? Doctor's name, GMC number, and specialty	Ensures legal and specialist prescribing competence	Verify GMC registration and Specialist Register status
What conditions do you treat with medical cannabis?	Checks scope matches evidence and legal frameworks	Clinic policies and condition list should align with NHS guidelines
Are the cannabis medicines licensed or unlicensed?	Ensures informed consent about unlicensed medicine risks	Patient information and consent documentation
What follow-up care do you provide?	Supports safe and effective ongoing treatment	Written follow-up plan and contact procedures
What are your full fees? Any hidden costs?		

Prevents unexpected charges and confusing bundles Clear fee breakdown in writing How do you protect patient data and privacy? Ensures confidentiality and legal compliance Privacy policies and data handling protocols

Final Thoughts

Going into treatment with medical cannabis should never be rushed. Your health and safety come first. Always start by asking for the clinic's **CQC registration number** and the prescribing doctor's **GMC details**. Confirm that the clinic follows legal prescribing rules and is transparent about medicine status and costs.

Don't be shy about asking detailed questions. Vague answers or reluctance to share information are warning signs. Make sure the clinic's expertise and patient care plans fit your needs.

If you keep these questions top of mind, you'll be much better positioned to find a reputable medical cannabis clinic that genuinely supports your health journey.