



Press Release | 3 March 2020

## UK Government announces faster access to cannabis-based medicines in watershed moment for Althea UK

Althea MMJ UK Ltd (**Althea** or **the Company**) is pleased to advise that the UK Department of Health and Social Care and Home Office (**Home Office**) have today announced that, following the relaxation of import restrictions, patients prescribed cannabis-based medicines will be able to get their treatment in days rather than months<sup>1</sup>.

The Home Office advised that: “Import restrictions have been changed to help ensure people with prescriptions for cannabis-based products for medicinal use do not have their treatment delayed or interrupted<sup>2</sup>.”

- Althea will now be able to: import larger quantities of cannabis-based products
- hold supplies for future use by patients with prescriptions

Althea has previously referred to the barriers to importing medicinal cannabis to the UK which saw patients waiting up to 12 weeks to receive their medical cannabis following receipt of their prescription.

The announced changes are expected to lead to a reduction of lead times for patients to receive their medical cannabis from months to days; and improved and consistent supply of cannabis medications, providing confidence to both doctors and patients in the UK.

**Althea CEO Joshua Fegan said** “This announcement is a positive outcome for both patients and Healthcare Professionals in the UK. The most important outcome for us is to be able to provide patients with their required Althea medications in a timely manner. We have been working closely with the Government for some time now and they have always been very clear on the fact that we needed to demonstrate the demand for our products. It is fair to say we have done this, with over 100 prescriptions for Althea medications landing on the regulator’s desk, in the last few months. I would also like to give credit to our UK team who have worked tirelessly with Government counterparts to secure this great outcome.”

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said: “The changes made today are a tremendous step towards improving the supply of cannabis-based medicinal products by helping to ensure quicker and more reliable access for patients. But we still have a long way to go. We need more research into the quality and safety of these medicines, and to do all we can to cut down the costs and remove barriers so that, when appropriate, patients can access it, including on the NHS.”

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-access-to-cannabis-based-medicines-as-import-restrictions-are-changed>

<sup>2</sup> As above



**Althea CEO Joshua Fegan added** “Althea will continue to work closely with key stakeholders in all sectors to educate and build awareness on Althea cannabis-based medicines. Recognising that there is limited information in the UK market to support Healthcare Professionals and patients, Althea continues to roll out its proprietary education platform, *Althea Concierge*. The platform will provide crucial real-world evidence for prescribers, which we believe is necessary for regulators to fully understand medical cannabis use in areas of unmet need. Real world evidence gathered in *Althea Concierge* is also key to Althea products potentially being prescribed and reimbursed through the NHS in the future. I look forward to relocating to the UK in the coming weeks and will work tirelessly whilst there to ensure our early mover advantage in the territory translates into long term value to Althea shareholders.”

-ENDS-

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**Althea Group Holdings Limited (ASX:AGH)**

Althea is an Australian licensed producer, supplier and exporter of pharmaceutical grade medicinal cannabis and is listed publicly on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX:AGH). Althea also offers a range of products, education, access and management services to support eligible patients and healthcare professionals in navigating medicinal cannabis treatment pathways.

Althea currently operates within highly regulated medicinal cannabis markets including Australia and the United Kingdom, with plans to expand into Germany, emerging markets throughout Asia and other parts of Europe.

To learn more, please visit: [www.althea.life](http://www.althea.life)