

## Comparison between Prescription Cannabinoid Medications and Cannabis (Medical Marihuana)

Cannabinoid	Principal Constituents/ Source	Approved Indications	Onset of Action	Duration of Action	Route of Administration
Nabilone (Cesamet®)	Synthetic delta-9-THC	Severe nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy	60-90 minutes	4-6 hours	Oral
Nabiximols: THC + CBD and other minor cannabinoids, terpenoids, and flavonoids (Sativex®)	Botanical extract from established and well-characterized <i>C. sativa</i> strains	*See below	15-40 minutes	2-4 hours	Oro-mucosal (buccal) spray
Cannabis: Smoked (Medical Marihuana)	<i>C. sativa</i> (various)	N/A	5 minutes	2-4 hours	Smoking
Cannabis: Vaporized (Medical Marihuana)	<i>C. sativa</i> (various)	N/A	5 minutes	2-4 hours	Inhalation by vaporizer
THC = tetrahydrocannabinol CBD=cannabidiol * Approved indications for Sativex®: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjunctive treatment for symptomatic relief of spasticity in residents with multiple sclerosis who have not responded adequately to other therapy and who demonstrate meaningful improvement during an initial trial of therapy</li> <li>• Adjunctive treatment for symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain in residents with multiple sclerosis</li> <li>• Adjunctive analgesic treatment in residents with advanced cancer who experience moderate to severe pain during the highest tolerated dose of strong opioid therapy for persistent background pain</li> </ul>					

**Reference:**

Table adapted from: Health Canada. Information for Health Care Professionals: Cannabis (marihuana, marijuana) and the cannabinoids. Available online at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/med/infoprof-eng.php>. Accessed September 9, 2014.