If a specialist prescribes medical cannabis privately in the UK, the medicine may be delivered to your home. Some clinics and pharmacies advertise **delivery within two working days**, but this is not a guaranteed timescale for every patient. The clock usually starts only after the prescription has been approved, sent to the dispensing pharmacy and processed. Assessment, prescription checks, stock availability, payment and weekends can all affect when it arrives.



It is also important to know that an online form does not itself provide a prescription. An **online eligibility check** can help you find out whether it may be worth seeking an assessment. A qualified specialist must then review your medical history, discuss other treatments and decide whether cannabis-based treatment is suitable. For many people, conventional NHS treatments and referral pathways remain the first step.

How the process usually works

Private clinics have their own procedures, so check their current arrangements before booking. In broad terms, the process often looks like this:

1. **Complete an online eligibility check.** This asks about your condition, symptoms, previous treatments and relevant medical history. It is an initial screen, not a diagnosis or guarantee of acceptance.
2. **Share your medical records.** The specialist may need information from your GP or hospital team, including details of diagnoses and treatments tried. Obtaining records can add time.
3. **Attend a private video consultation.** A doctor or other appropriately qualified prescriber with relevant specialist expertise should assess you. They will ask about your symptoms, health, medicines and treatment goals.
4. **Wait for a prescribing decision.** If the specialist considers cannabis-based treatment clinically appropriate, they may issue a prescription. They may instead recommend other care, request more information or decide not to prescribe.
5. **Allow time for pharmacy processing and delivery.** The pharmacy needs to receive and check the prescription, confirm the medicine is available and arrange dispatch. Delivery speed depends on the service and the circumstances.

In the UK, cannabis-based products for medicinal use are generally prescribed by a specialist doctor on the General Medical Council's Specialist Register, or by another qualified prescriber working within the relevant rules. These products are not routinely prescribed for every condition or as a first treatment. Specialist prescribing is generally considered when appropriate licensed treatments have not worked, have caused unacceptable side effects or are not suitable.

What does "delivery within two working days" mean?

The phrase usually describes a pharmacy's estimated delivery time after it has received and processed a valid prescription. It does not necessarily mean two days from the moment you first contact a clinic. A consultation may need to take place first, and the prescriber may need to review records or discuss your case with colleagues.

Stage What can affect the timing? Eligibility check and booking Appointment availability, the information supplied and whether further records are needed Specialist assessment Clinical complexity, relevant medical history and the specialist's prescribing decision Prescription and pharmacy checks Prescription validation, stock availability, payment and pharmacy processing times Home delivery Dispatch cut-off times, weekends, public holidays and the delivery service used

Ask the clinic or pharmacy what its delivery estimate covers, when the estimate begins and what happens if an item is out of stock. Also ask how repeat prescriptions are arranged: they may need a further review, and should not be assumed to arrive automatically. Do not stop, reduce or replace prescribed medicines while waiting for an assessment or delivery unless your usual clinician advises you to.

Why women may be seeking help for persistent pain

Chronic pain can affect daily life, work, relationships, sleep and mental wellbeing. Women may experience pain linked to conditions such as endometriosis, migraine, pelvic pain, arthritis or fibromyalgia. Pain is not always recognised or treated promptly, and someone can have more than one contributing condition. Persistent symptoms deserve a proper assessment rather than an assumption that they are simply part of being a woman.

Endometriosis is a long-term condition in which tissue similar to the lining of the womb grows elsewhere in the body. It can cause severe period pain, pelvic pain, pain during or after sex, bowel or bladder symptoms, fatigue and difficulties with fertility. Symptoms vary: not everyone has all of them, and pain severity does not always reflect how much endometriosis is present.



Endometriosis delays and their impact

People with endometriosis can wait years for a diagnosis. Endometriosis UK has reported an average diagnosis time of around eight years and ten months in England and Wales, based on its survey data. This is not a prediction of an individual's wait, but it illustrates femalefirst.co.uk why ongoing symptoms should be taken seriously and followed up.

Delays can mean years of pain without a clear explanation, repeated appointments and disruption to education, work, relationships and mental health. If you have recurring pain that affects your life, keep a record of when it happens, how severe it is, other symptoms and what helps. This can support a conversation with your GP. Seek urgent medical help for sudden severe pain, fainting, heavy bleeding or other worrying symptoms.

Menopause symptoms are not only hot flushes

Menopause and perimenopause can bring a range of symptoms, and experiences differ from person to person. Alongside hot flushes and night sweats, symptoms can include sleep problems, low mood, anxiety, difficulty concentrating or "brain fog", joint and muscle aches, headaches, palpitations, reduced sexual desire and vaginal or urinary symptoms. These symptoms can have other causes too, so it is sensible to discuss new, persistent or troubling changes with a healthcare professional.

There are established options for menopause symptoms. Depending on a person's health and preferences, a clinician may discuss hormone replacement therapy (HRT), non-hormonal medicines, psychological support or practical measures. Vaginal oestrogen can be offered for certain genitourinary symptoms. A GP, nurse or menopause service can explain what may be suitable and review benefits and risks for an individual.

Medical cannabis is not an established first-line treatment for menopause symptoms. Evidence for cannabis products varies by condition and product, and potential benefits should not be assumed. A private consultation should include an honest discussion of the evidence, alternatives and possible harms.

NHS treatments and referral pathways come first

For endometriosis and other persistent pain, NHS care may include assessment by a GP, pain management, appropriate pain relief, hormonal treatments or referral to a gynaecology service. NICE guidance recommends considering a range of options for suspected or confirmed endometriosis, shaped by symptoms, priorities and clinical circumstances. A GP can discuss treatment, arrange investigations where appropriate and refer to a specialist. A normal examination or scan does not always rule out endometriosis.

For chronic pain, treatment may involve investigating possible causes, managing a diagnosed condition, physiotherapy, psychological approaches such as pain-focused cognitive behavioural therapy, and medicines where appropriate. A pain clinic referral may be considered when pain remains difficult to manage. The right pathway depends on the person's symptoms and local services.

For menopause, a GP or other clinician can assess symptoms and discuss HRT and non-hormonal options. Some people can be supported in primary care; referral to a specialist menopause service may be appropriate when symptoms are complex, treatment is difficult or there are relevant health considerations.

Private medical cannabis care does not replace this assessment. If you are considering it, tell the specialist what NHS investigations and treatments you have had, what helped or caused side effects, and what you hope to improve. You can also ask your GP to continue coordinating your wider care. Private and NHS clinicians may not share records automatically, so ask how relevant information will be communicated.

Questions to ask before booking

- Who will assess me, and are they a specialist with experience in my condition?
- What medical records are needed, and can the clinic help obtain them?
- What are the consultation, prescription, medicine and delivery costs?
- Is the delivery estimate counted from prescription approval or another point?
- What happens if the medicine is unavailable or delivery is delayed?
- How will side effects be monitored, and who should I contact with concerns?
- Will the clinic communicate with my GP or other NHS clinicians?

Safety matters after delivery, too

Cannabis-based medicines can cause side effects, including sleepiness, dizziness, changes in concentration or mood, and problems with coordination. Effects depend on the product and the person. Follow the prescriber's instructions, keep the medicine secure and do not share it. Tell the prescriber about other medicines, alcohol or health conditions that could affect treatment.

Do not drive if a medicine makes you impaired. It is illegal to drive while unfit through drugs, including prescribed medicines; having a prescription does not make impaired driving safe or lawful. Ask your prescriber for advice about driving and read the product information. Cannabis-based medicines may also be unsuitable in some circumstances, including pregnancy or breastfeeding, so discuss this before treatment.

The bottom line

Home delivery medical cannabis may be possible after a private specialist assessment, and some pharmacies estimate delivery within two working days once they have processed a valid prescription. But

that is not a guaranteed arrival time from your first enquiry. An online eligibility check is only an initial screen; a private video consultation and a clinical decision come first.

If you are living with endometriosis, chronic pain or menopause symptoms, you deserve a careful assessment and a clear plan. Discuss NHS first-line options and referral routes with your GP or relevant specialist. If you explore private cannabis treatment, ask how the prescription and delivery process works, what the evidence says for your symptoms, and how your care will be monitored.