

**Clinical Services Branch  
Health Services Division**

June 20, 2006

Dr. L. S. Erlick  
Chair OMA/WSIB Steering Committee  
Ontario Medical Association  
525 University Ave, Suite 300  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K7

Dear Doctor Erlick,

**RE Cesamet: Status in WSIB Drug Benefit Program.**

In case you receive any enquiries I would like to share with you the status of Nabilone in the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Drug Benefit Program

***Nabilone (cesamet) has not been added to WSIB Formularies due to the following reasons:***

There are currently no published, controlled clinical trials ( $n > 1$ ) evaluating nabilone for the management of chronic non-malignant pain. There are some reports of pain reduction in case series and case reports, however there is no high quality evidence at this time to support the use of nabilone for chronic non-malignant pain. In addition, the high risk of side effects such as drowsiness and vertigo may outweigh any potential benefits. Large, randomized-controlled trials are required to assess efficacy and safety of nabilone for pain.

Medical literature will be reviewed on a regular basis and formulary status will be reconsidered when substantive new evidence is available.

***Acknowledgment:***

*It is recognized that the prescribing physician uses clinical experience and individual needs of the patient however, "...the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best practice in making decisions about the care of individual patients...means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available external evidence from systematic research."*  
*Dr. David Sackett, 1996.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Catherine Painvin, MD, MSc.  
Director  
Clinical Services Branch

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