Constitution of the Medical Cannabis Clinicians Society (MCCS)

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be the Medical Cannabis Clinicians Society (MCCS), registered at Companies House as *MedCan Clinicians Society CIC (12000732)*.

2. Purpose & Values

The MCCS is a clinician-led, independent, and evidence-based organisation. We give clinicians the opportunity to share practical knowledge, develop transparent guidance, and lead the conversation on medical cannabis in the UK.

We see a future where every healthcare provider and clinician understands and appreciates the therapeutic value of medical cannabis and its growing role within personalised medicine.

We believe that all patients who may benefit from medical cannabis should have fair access, including through the NHS.

Our mission is to broaden the knowledge and understanding of clinicians and healthcare providers on the therapeutic benefits and safe prescription of cannabis-based medicines.

We are committed to raising awareness, promoting education, and providing expert, independent commentary on medical cannabis for clinicians, policymakers, the media, and the wider public.

3. Membership

3.1. Eligibility

Membership is open to clinicians working in or with an interest in medical cannabis, normally based in the UK or Ireland, but open to international applicants. Eligible professionals include, but are not limited to:

- Medical practitioners
- Pharmacists
- Nurses and Allied Health Professionals
- Student clinicians

The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, approve additional categories of membership for individuals who are not clinicians but whose professional expertise or experience is relevant to the Society's objectives.

All members agree to abide by the Code of Conduct (Appendix 2.)

3.2. Categories of Membership

- **Full Members** - Medical practitioners, Pharmacists, Nurses, Allied Health Professionals and Student clinicians
- **Affiliate Members** - non-clinicians with relevant professional expertise, admitted at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- **Honorary Members** - awarded at the discretion of the Executive Committee in recognition of exceptional service.

3.3. Applications

Applications for membership must be submitted via the official form. Once approved and fees are paid, membership will be valid for one year and renewable annually.

3.4. Renewal & Lapse

Membership is renewable annually on payment of the subscription fee.

If fees remain unpaid three months after the due date, the Executive Committee may deem the member to have resigned.

3.5. Ceasing to be a Member

- Members may resign in writing at any time.
- Members may be asked to resign or be expelled for non-payment of fees, offensive behaviour, breach of the Code of Conduct, or actions contrary to the interests of the Society.
- The individual has the right to be heard by the Executive Committee before a final decision.

4. Executive Committee

4.1. Role

The Executive Committee has ultimate responsibility for the governance, finances, and objectives of the MCCS. It shall uphold the independence of the Society from commercial or political interests, ensuring that all outputs remain transparent, evidence-based, and clinician-led.

4.2. Composition

The Executive Committee shall include:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Up to 16 elected Committee members
- Executive Director (Ex-Officio with voting rights)
- Operations & Membership Director (Ex-Officio with voting rights)

Maximum size: 20 members. Roles cannot be shared.

In addition to elected clinician members, the Executive Committee may co-opt individuals with other professional expertise or relevant experience, even if they are not otherwise eligible for membership under Section 4.1, provided their contribution is deemed valuable to the objectives of the Society.

The Executive Committee may also invite observers or advisors to attend meetings in a non-voting capacity.

4.3. Named Individuals

The AGM endorses the nominations/elections to the Executive Committee on the basis of the named individuals.

Executive Committee membership is non-transferable, and there is no entitlement for elected Executive Committee representatives to send substitutes if they are unable to attend.

4.4. Terms of Office

- Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members serve a two-year term and may stand for re-election for a maximum of two terms.
- Former members may rejoin after a 2 year period of absence, providing they have a live membership of the Society during this time.
- Mid-term vacancies may be filled by election from within the Committee until the next AGM.
- Ex-Officio operational roles are not bound by terms of office.

4.5. Conflicts of Interest

All Committee members must declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest (e.g. financial interests in cannabis companies, paid consultancy) and recuse themselves from related decisions.

4.6. Responsibilities

- **Chair**
  Leads and facilitates all meetings, represents the Society externally, and provides strategic leadership. Oversees fundraising initiatives where appropriate.

- **Executive Director**
  Responsible for business development, financial management, and strategic oversight of marketing and communications. Provides line management to the Operations Director.
- **Operations Director**
  Manages day-to-day operations of the Society, including membership administration, retention, and outreach.
- **Committee Members**
  Expected to attend meetings regularly, contribute actively to activities and decision-making, and declare any conflicts of interest .

4.7. Resignation/Disqualification

An Executive Committee member will cease to hold office if they:

- Resign in writing,
- Fail to attend two consecutive meetings without apology,
- Become otherwise incapable of acting.

5. Meetings

5.1. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- Held annually, normally in November.
- Notice given at least 14 days in advance by email.
- May be held in person, online, or hybrid.
- Quorum: 10 members
- Reports, accounts, elections, and proposals submitted at least 7 days prior will be discussed.

5.2. Special General Meeting (SGM)

- May be called by the majority of the Executive Committee or by written request of 10 members.
- Notice: 14 days by email/electronic means.
- Must be held within 21 days of the request.
- May be in-person, online, or hybrid.
- Quorum: 10 members, whichever is greater.

5.3. Procedure

- Decisions reached by consensus where possible.
- Otherwise, by simple majority vote.
- All attendees must agree to the MCCS Anti-Trust Statement (Appendix 1).

5.4. Voting

Members may vote:

- In person
- Virtually during online/hybrid meetings
- By proxy (submitted in advance)

5.5. Casting Vote

In case of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote.

6. Finance

- Membership fees are set annually at the AGM.
- All funds used only to further the Society's objectives.
- Executive Director and Operations Director are jointly responsible for maintaining accurate financial records and presenting accounts at the AGM.
- All payments above £500 require authorisation by the Chair.

The Society will ensure that all funding sources or partnerships are transparent and do not compromise its independence.

7. Legal Provisions

Directors, Committee members, and officers are indemnified by the MCCS against costs, losses, or liabilities incurred in the proper discharge of duties, except where caused by fraud, negligence, or wilful misconduct.

8. Equal Opportunities

The MCCS is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion. It will not discriminate based on sex, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, gender, religion, political belief, pregnancy, marital status, or age.

The Society will act fairly and transparently in all dealings with members, patients, and external stakeholders, consistent with its mission to widen fair access to medical cannabis.

All members must comply with the MCCS Code of Conduct (Appendix 2).

9. Data Protection

The MCCS will comply with UK GDPR and Data Protection legislation in the handling of members' data, as set out in its Privacy Policy.

10. Complaints & Discipline

- Complaints about a member's behaviour or conduct should be submitted in writing to the Executive Director.
- The Executive Committee will review the complaint and may:
    - Issue a warning,
    - Suspend the member, or
    - Terminate membership.
- Where appropriate, an independent panel may be convened.
- The member has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

Members are expected to uphold the reputation of the Society as a professional, independent body.

11. Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute between members, or between members and the Committee, the matter may be referred to independent mediation before any legal proceedings are considered.

12. Amendments

This Constitution may only be amended at an AGM or SGM, with at least two-thirds of members present (in person, online, proxy, or ballot) voting in favour.

13. Dissolution

The MCCS may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of members at a properly convened SGM. The meeting will determine how assets are distributed and liabilities met.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Anti-Trust Statement

Members of the MCCS agree to participate in meetings to consider issues relating to the organisation's core activities, which are detailed in the meeting agenda and other agenda items as agreed by the Executive Committee.

Members will participate in the understanding that they will represent the best interests of all MCCS Members and the broader cannabis industry.

Members will recognise and comply with their respective obligations under the Competition Act 1998. Accordingly, meetings will not (and must not) involve any conduct by words or actions which intentionally or unintentionally lessen competition in the broader medical cannabis, CBD nutraceutical, or hemp industries.

This specifically prohibits discussion of competitively sensitive information, including:

- Prices or fees
- Customers or suppliers
- Tenders or contracts
- Market allocation
- Production capacity or output

Appendix 2 - Code of Conduct

All members of the Medical Cannabis Clinicians Society agree to uphold the highest professional standards when engaging with the Society, its members, and external stakeholders.

1. Professional Behaviour

- Act respectfully and professionally in all Society activities, including events, meetings, forums, and online discussions.
- Uphold the Society's mission to broaden clinical knowledge and support evidence-based use of medical cannabis.

2. Confidentiality

- Keep discussions within MCCS platforms confidential unless permission is given to share.

3. Respect & Inclusion

- Treat all members and partners fairly and with respect.
- No discrimination, harassment, or bullying will be tolerated.

4. Use of MCCS Name & Branding

- Members may identify themselves as MCCS members and use the "Member Of" logo in professional contexts.
- The MCCS name or logo may not be used in commercial material without permission.

5. Enforcement

- Breaches of this Code may result in a warning, suspension, or termination of membership at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- Members have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.