Legally Prescribed Medicinal Cannabis

Substance (Harm Prevention) / 14/02/22 / V1.
On 01 November 2018 amendments to drug legislation came into effect introducing a definition for ‘cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans’.

Cannabis can only be prescribed by clinicians listed on the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council, not by a GP.

Cannabis based medicinal products can only be supplied in order to meet the individual needs of the patient.

As such, officers may encounter members of the public in possession of medicinal cannabis which has been legally prescribed to them.

Possession of legally prescribed medicinal cannabis should be treated no differently to any other legally prescribed medication.
If a person is found in possession of medicinal cannabis officers should ensure;

- The individual is in possession of, or be able to produce a prescription in their name.

- And; it is in a suitably labelled container bearing their name, date of prescription and that it has been prescribed by a specialist medical practitioner.

Where the above criteria cannot be met officers should continue enquiries to establish if any offence has been committed or if the medication can be lawfully returned.

Any enquiries should be directed to the Substance (Harm Prevention) Team at