



Relieving chronic illnesses & ailments with medical cannabis

Algea Care stands for evidence-based and telemedicine-assisted medical cannabis therapy: expert, hassle-free, patient-centred care



www.algeacare.com

Algea Care

Algea Care is the first and leading Germany-wide platform for telemedicine-supported and evidence-based medical treatment with medical cannabis The platform www.algeacare.com offers patients a centre providing help and advice on cannabis therapy, which has been legal in Germany since 2017, and offers all-round expert service and rapid assistance.

The Algea Care therapists are trained in treatment using the cannabis plant and our specialist physicians undergo an internal qualification process. At www.algeacare.com, patients can register for a medically and scientifically-based therapy using natural medicinal products, such as cannabis. The therapeutic effects of the medicinal plant leads to a significant improvement in quality of life for many people and alleviate symptoms, especially for pain patients.

Patients fill in a questionnaire to determine if cannabis therapy is, in principle, a viable option. If this is the case, they will rapidly - usually within one week - be given an appointment in one of our 22 therapy centres. After compiling the medical history, at the in-person appointment, the doctor discusses the therapy options with the patient and begins to create a tailored treatment plan based on the patient and their symptoms. Patients receive detailed information before beginning therapy. All further appointments can take place as a video consultation. This is easier and less time-consuming for the patient. Modern communication channels are available to contact Algea Care, such as video consultation, e-mail, and soon, an online chat.

Why Algea Care?

Inadequate access to treatment

Currently, access to medical cannabis treatment in Germany is unsatisfactory. This was reported in document 19/2265119 published by the German Parliament:

"Although the difficulties relating to prescription, treatment and assumption of costs have repeatedly been discussed in parliament, in the opinion of the questioner, the situation for patients has only improved somewhat since then."

The German Society for Pain Medicine (DGS) aims to simplify the prescription of cannabinoids for pain therapy. The DGS estimates that half of all pain patients for whom cannabis would be a viable option are not prescribed it.

Algea Care and the doctors administering the treatment have set themselves the task of improving access to medical cannabis and, in particular, making it more patient-friendly and uncomplicated. This is within the scope of the currently applicable laws and professional codes of conduct.

Benefits for the patient

- Doctors specially trained in cannabis therapy
- No long waiting times for appointments
- Telemedical care
- State-of-the-art technology for simple, service-orientated, and efficient processes
- Tailored all-round service for patients
- No obligatory participation in the study intended for statutory health insurance patients in accordance with § 31 (6) Sen. 4 and 5 SGB V

Algea Care Therapy Centres (22)

Augsburg, Berlin, Dortmund, Frankfurt a.M., Freiburg, Hamburg, Hannover, Heidelberg, Ingolstadt, Karlsruhe, Kassel, Köln, Konstanz, Leipzig, Munich, Münster, Nürnberg, Passau, Regensburg, Saarbrücken, Stuttgart, Würzburg

Costs

Invoicing in accordance with the German Scale of Fees for Physicians (GOÄ) for possible reimbursement from private health insurance providers. Treatment for self-paying patients is available. Each appointment costs approx. €90–140.

Legal basis

In March 2017, the German Parliament enacted the “cannabis as medicine” law, which creates the legal basis for the prescription of cannabis.

Obstacles facing patients and doctors

1. There are obstacles and a significant bureaucratic burden, particularly for patients with statutory health insurance.
2. § 31 (6) of the Social Security Statute Book (SGB) V requires that a generally recognised treatment, corresponding to the current medical standard is
 - a) not available, or,
 - b) cannot be administered in the specific case.Furthermore, there must be a realistic prospect of a noticeable positive effect on the illness or severe symptoms in the opinion of the practitioner.
3. Mandatory authorisation from the health insurance provider before the issuance of the first prescription.
4. Comprehensive and extensive medical documentation obligations.
5. Health insurance providers may require an expert opinion, e.g., by the Medical Review Board of the Statutory Health Insurance Funds (MDK).
6. As per § 31 (6) Sen. 4 and 5 of SGB V, patients are obliged to participate in an accompanying survey.

Prescribing cannabis

There are no legal restrictions relating to the specialist physician groups authorized to issue prescriptions.

In accordance with § 2 (1) of the Narcotic Drug Prescription Ordinance (BtMVV), physicians must adhere to pre-defined maximum amounts, except in exceptional cases, which must be marked with the letter A on the prescription.

Dried cannabis flowers and extracts and medicinal products with the active substances dronabinol and nabilone require a narcotic drug prescription. CBD-based medicinal products can be prescribed via a standard prescription.

Suitable indications

According to the law, there must be a serious, but not further defined, illness. In the opinion of the attending doctor, medical cannabis must be expected to have a positive influence on the course of the illness or its symptoms. Example indications:

- Chronic pain
- Sleep disturbances
- Depression, anxiety, stress
- Tourette's syndrome, epilepsy
- Cancer
- Crohn's disease, severe intestinal diseases
- Palliative medicine
- Multiple sclerosis
- Serious loss of appetite and nausea

Destigmatisation of cannabis

The handling of cannabis has evolved internationally. For example, in Canada, the controlled dispensation of cannabis for recreational use by adults has been legalized. In the USA, medical cannabis is legal in 35 states, and recreational use is also legal in 14 states.

The Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) of the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the new classification of cannabis, including the removal of cannabidiol (CBD) from international drug controls.

In November 2020, the Court of Justice of the European Union stated the non-psychoactive substance cannabidiol (CBD) is no longer classified as a narcotic if the THC level is less than 0.2 per cent.

In December 2020, the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs voted to downgrade cannabis in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

The new coalition government in Germany, in office since the end of 2021, has listed the decriminalization of recreational cannabis use in their coalition agreement.

Treatment facts

- The exact number of cannabis therapy patients is unknown.
- The survey by the statutory health insurance providers (GKV-Arzneimittel-Schnellinformation für Deutschland (GKV GAMS)) shows: Over 880,000 prescriptions have been issued (as of 2021) for medicinal products containing cannabis since the approval of prescription cannabinoids.
- Accompanying surveys: By the reporting date on 11.05.2020, more than 10,000 datasets were available.
- Prescription indications:

Pain	10,03	Approx. 75
Spasticity	1,275	Approx. 10
Anorexia/wasting	754	Approx. 6
Nausea/vomiting	551	Approx. 4
Depression	381	Approx. 3
Migraine	268	Approx. 2
ADHS	144	Approx. 1
Poor appetite/inappetence	142	Approx. 1
Intestinal disease, inflammatory, non-infectious	156	Approx. 1
Tic disorders, Tourette's syndrome	94	< 1 per cent
Epilepsy	142	Approx. 1
Restless leg syndrome	128	Approx. 1
Insomnia/sleep disorders	113	< 1 per cent

- Approx. 35 per cent of the applications for treatment with cannabis as per § 31 VI SGB were rejected by the statutory health insurance (source: Bundestag Drucksache 19/5862)
- Links to the interim analysis of the accompanying survey:
<https://www.aerzteblatt.de/archiv/218123/Zwischenergebnisse-der-Cannabisbegleiterhebung-zu-Dronabinol>

Algea Care team

- Over 240-strong Algea Care team
- Including over 90 certified doctors

Company

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Sector Telemedicine | eHealth | Medicinal Cannabis

Founded June 2020

Founder Dr Julian Wichmann, 36-years old, CEO
Julian is a medical doctor. He worked for six years as a radiologist and general practitioner in university hospitals focusing on pain patients. He has authored over 150 scientific publications. Although he began in the strict evidence-based field of academic medicine, he is a proponent of innovative and modern forms of therapy for the treatment of chronic illnesses using cannabis and other natural medical products.