

The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Dear Ms Cooper,

Urgent government intervention to protect children dependent on Bedrolite

The Medical Cannabis Clinicians Society is calling for urgent government intervention to protect vulnerable children in the United Kingdom whose treatment for severe, drug-resistant epilepsy depends on Bedrolite and other prescribed Bedrocan products.

We ask you to make urgent representations to your Dutch counterpart to secure access to suitable existing stocks and establish an emergency supply arrangement. This would allow these children to continue their prescribed treatment while longer-term arrangements are made.

Following the reported insolvency of Bedrocan's Dutch businesses, families do not know whether they will be able to obtain future prescriptions. This prospect is devastating for the families affected. In our clinical experience, no other medical cannabis oil currently available in the UK has matched the effectiveness of Bedrocan products for the children concerned. These seven families have already faced exceptional difficulties obtaining and funding their children's prescriptions. They had hoped that access would become more secure and affordable. Instead, they now face the possibility that the treatment on which their child is stable will become unavailable. For a child with severe epilepsy, loss of seizure control can mean recurrent seizures, emergency hospital admission and potentially life-threatening deterioration.

The Dutch Office of Medicinal Cannabis has stated that it holds stocks across the five currently available varieties to supply Dutch patients until at least mid-2027, with availability differing between products. It remains unclear whether any of these stocks will be available to UK patients. We ask your Department to clarify the position urgently and negotiate an allocation sufficient to protect continuity of treatment for affected UK children. We recognise the Dutch Government's stated intention to secure supplies and introduce multiple suppliers. However, families need assurance that their children's existing treatment will remain available throughout that transition.

The Sunday Times reports that the Dutch health ministry has told MS patients there is "no scientific evidence" that cannabis varieties differ in effect. An absence of comparative evidence does not establish that a replacement will provide equivalent seizure control for an individual child with severe, drug-resistant epilepsy. Indeed, for children with epilepsy it is highly likely an

alternative product will not have the same effect and place the child at risk of seizures, status epilepticus and **a 10% chance of death.**

Any proposed alternative must therefore be assessed by the child's treating specialist, taking account of their treatment history and the risks of destabilising seizure control. In the meantime, we ask the UK Government to secure access to suitable existing Bedrolite stocks and other prescribed Bedrocan products, so that children are not forced into a change of treatment by a supply failure.

We therefore ask the Government to:

- Secure access to existing supplies for affected UK children, whether their prescriptions are NHS-funded or privately funded, through urgent engagement with the Dutch health ministry, the Office of Medicinal Cannabis and the relevant insolvency trustees.
- Coordinate the complete supply pathway, bringing together the MHRA, Home Office, licensed importers and dispensing pharmacies so that suitable stock can be lawfully obtained, prepared and dispensed without avoidable delay.
- Establish a continuity plan for every affected child, with specialist oversight, clear information for families and measures to ensure that emergency supply remains affordable.

These children's continued access to effective treatment must be treated as an urgent patient-safety priority.

We would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity, outlining any discussions with Dutch counterparts, the steps being considered to maintain supplies for UK patients and who will lead this work within your department.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Mike Barnes
Chair
Medcan Clinicians Society CIC