

Cannabis Training Agenda

Learning Objectives, Agenda & Capability Framework Alignment

A 3 hour online knowledge and skills-based course focusing on cannabis — types, pharmacology, synthetic cannabinoids, health and psychiatric implications, and current treatment approaches

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Company: TD Consultancy

Delivery: Online — 3 hours

Edition: 2026

Aims & Objectives of the Course

- Increase knowledge and awareness of the issues relating to cannabis use, including the current UK and global situation
- Increase knowledge of how cannabis is used and the effects upon an individual's physiology and neurology, including the role of THC, CBD and the endocannabinoid system
- Understand the different types of cannabis — herbal, resin, oil, concentrates, synthetic cannabinoids and medical cannabis applications
- Understand the possible effects on physical health and psychiatric wellbeing, including cannabis use disorder, psychosis and dependency
- Increase knowledge of synthetic cannabinoids and the specific risks they present
- Increase confidence and competency in working with this client group
- Understand current evidence-based treatment approaches for cannabis use disorder

Session Agenda

Cannabis: History, Types, Pharmacology, Health Implications & Treatment

10:00am Start — Welcome & Course Overview

10:15am Current UK and global situation — prevalence, policy and trends

10:30am Different types of cannabis — herbal, resin, oil, concentrates, shatter and medical applications

11:00am Synthetic cannabinoids — types, risks and the UK situation

11:15am Break (15 minutes)

11:30am How cannabis works — THC, CBD, cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system

11:55am Health & psychiatric implications — cannabis use disorder, psychosis, dependency and co-occurring needs

12:25pm Current treatment approaches — evidence base, harm reduction and interventions

12:45pm Working with this client group — confidence, competency and referral pathways

1:00pm Close & Q&A

Capability Framework Alignment

This course aligns with the Capability Framework for the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Workforce (NHS England/ OHID, 2024), which underpins the 10-Year Strategic Plan for the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Workforce 2024–2034.

Capability Domain (NHS England / OHID, 2024)	Framework Section
Knowledge of the nature, prevalence and patterns of cannabis use in the UK, including current policy, legal status and global trends in regulation and medical use	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Application of Knowledge</i>
Knowledge of the different types of cannabis — herbal, resin, oil, concentrates, synthetic cannabinoids and medical cannabis preparations — and their varying potency and risk profiles	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Application of Knowledge</i>
Knowledge of how cannabis works — including the role of THC, CBD, the endocannabinoid system, and the pharmacological differences between natural and synthetic cannabinoids	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Application of Knowledge</i>
Knowledge of the health and psychiatric risks associated with cannabis use, including cannabis use disorder, THC-induced psychosis, dependency, respiratory harm and co-occurring mental health conditions	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Application of Knowledge</i>
Knowledge of the specific risks associated with synthetic cannabinoids, including severe acute toxicity, unpredictable effects and prevalence in prison and homeless populations	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Application of Knowledge</i>
Ability to provide evidence-based harm reduction information and advice to people who use cannabis, including guidance on potency, routes of administration and reducing frequency	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery</i>
Ability to carry out person-centred assessments of cannabis use and co-occurring psychological, social and physical health needs	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Engagement, Assessment and Care Planning</i>
Challenging stigma — being alert to the ways normalisation of cannabis use and negative perceptions can influence professional practice	<i>Underpinning Principle: All Roles</i>

Underpinning Principles Embedded in This Course

Trauma-informed care • Recovery-oriented approach • Evidence-based practice • Person-centred working • Forming a working alliance • Therapeutic optimism • Challenging stigma • Co-occurring needs and multidisciplinary working

Note: National Occupational Standards (DANOS/NOS) are retained within the National Occupational Standards library but are no longer the primary workforce development reference for the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery sector. This course uses the NHS England / OHID Capability Framework (2024) as its primary alignment standard.