

ASX Announcement | 11 May 2023
Althea Group Holdings (ASX:AGH)

NHS reimbursement achieved for treatment of chronic pain

Industry breakthrough as first Althea medicinal cannabis oil prescribed in NHS hospital

Financial Highlights:

- Althea CBD10:THC5 has been prescribed for UK patients with chronic persistent pain, who were not responding to conventional recommended treatments available on the NHS
- In the UK, around one third of adults are thought to be impacted by chronic persistent pain, which is defined as pain lasting for more than three months
- The Company views this material development as a significant milestone, 3 years in the making, which creates a significant commercial opportunity for Althea considering patients treated in the public healthcare system do not have to pay for their consultations or prescribed medicine (apart from a nominal dispensing fee)

11 May 2023: **Althea Group Holdings Limited (ASX:AGH) ('AGH', or 'the Company')**, a global leader in the manufacturing, sales and distribution of cannabis-based medicines and recreational cannabis products, is pleased to announce that the UK public health system National Health Service ('NHS') has approved Althea CBD10:THC5 for UK patients with chronic persistent pain, who were not responding to conventional recommended treatments available on the NHS.

Industry breakthrough

This ground-breaking development validates Althea's scientific and data-driven approach, demonstrating the efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness of Althea cannabis-based medicines in the management of chronic persistent pain.

Althea, which is a global leader for the education and training of doctors in the prescription of medicinal cannabis, views this material development as a significant milestone, 3 years in the making. Thus, creating a significant commercial opportunity for the Company, as patients treated in the public healthcare system do not have to pay for their consultations or prescribed medicine (aside from a nominal dispensing fee).

Evidence suggests that medicinal cannabis can improve pain and disability scores in patients with chronic pain, whilst also reducing the need for opioid prescriptions¹.

A lack of effective pain control remains a significant burden on the NHS, with an estimated 20% of patients attending specialist pain services continuing to visit accident and emergency (A&E). Furthermore, in the British Pain Society's National Pain Audit, 66% of people attending A&E seeking help with pain had more than three visits to healthcare

¹ Greis A, Renslo B, Wilson-Poe A R, et al. (January 20, 2022) Medical Cannabis Use Reduces Opioid Prescriptions in Patients With Chronic Back Pain. *Cureus* 14(1): e21452



professionals in the preceding six months. They state that “...pain is not being managed to the level expected by patients, and also clinicians.”²

AGH CEO, Joshua Fegan said: “Althea continues to progress cannabis-based medicines further than any other player in the space at a global level. The latest development, reimbursement of our medicine in the UK public healthcare system, is testament to the hard work and dedication of our passionate and highly skilled employees. I would like to thank AGH shareholders for their support and patience, as investments in territories like the UK, and wider Europe, begin to shine through and provide significant commercial return on investment opportunities for the Company.”

-ENDS-

Authorised by: Robert Meissner, Company Secretary

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Althea Group Holdings Limited (ASX:AGH)

Althea Group Holdings Ltd (‘AGH’) is a global leader in the manufacturing, sales and distribution of cannabis-based medicines and recreational cannabis products. AGH services these sectors via two distinct business units. Althea, the company’s pharmaceutical business, offers a comprehensive range of cannabis-based medicines which are made available to patients via prescription. Peak Processing Solutions, AGH’s recreational cannabis business, produces legal cannabis products purchased by adult consumers in retail stores.

AGH operates in highly regulated and legal cannabis markets across the world with burgeoning operations in Europe, North America, Australia and Africa.

To learn more about Althea Group Holdings, please visit: www.altheagroupholdings.com

For more information on Peak, please visit: www.peakprocessing.com

For more information on Althea, please visit: www.althea.life

²https://www.britishpainsociety.org/static/uploads/resources/files/Chronic_Pain_Patient_Voice_NHS_Long_Term_Plan_CPPC_2019_Pain_Platform_Report.pdf

