

Health Effects of Vape Oils Containing Unknown Substances

Users of e-cigarettes and/or vaporizer pens must ensure that the products they purchase do not contain Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, CBD, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or synthetic cannabinoids

Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, NC, and the Naval Medical Center at Camp Lejeune, NC, have seen a combined total of at least 60 patients with medical conditions potentially related to vaping products marketed as containing CBD oil. Although pure CBD oil has not yet been associated with adverse health effects, CBD vape oils may contain synthetic cannabinoids, concentrated tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and/or other hazardous compounds in addition to, or in place of, CBD oil. Adverse health effects in Active Duty patients ranged from headache, nausea, vomiting, palpitations, dilated pupils and dizziness to confusion, disorientation, agitation and seizures, all of which are consistent with synthetic cannabinoids.

This problem has the potential to spread quickly across the Army. Although some vape oils may contain CBD oil, CBD, THC, and/or synthetic cannabinoids, many vape oils do not disclose that they may contain illegal and/or potentially hazardous substances to include synthetic cannabinoids. Even consumers who may not be seeking products containing CBD oil, CBD, THC or other synthetic cannabinoids may unintentionally purchase and use them. Per AR 600-85, Soldiers are prohibited from using hemp or products containing hemp oil and are also prohibited from using synthetic cannabis, to include synthetic blends using CBD oil, and other THC substitutes (“spice”), or any other substance similarly designed to mimic the effects of a controlled substance.

Additional information for leaders, warfighters, families and healthcare professionals is provided by the Uniformed Services University Consortium for Health and Military Performance’s DOD Operation Supplement Safety at:

<https://www.opss.org/faqs/cannabidiol-are-dietary-supplements-cannabidiol-legal>