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## **Epilepsy Patient goes from 140 seizures a year to less than one a month with the help of medicinal cannabis prescription**



*Shaun Murphy, from Jersey has been prescribed medicinal cannabis by Medicann and is raising awareness for International Epilepsy Day*



Monday 12 February marks International Epilepsy Day, and Medicann patient Shaun Murphy is raising awareness about medicinal cannabis and how it has improved his quality of life whilst managing his epilepsy condition.

Shaun, age 63, from Les Quennevais, Jersey was diagnosed with epilepsy in 2007 after suddenly collapsing and having his first seizure at age 47. After living with epilepsy for more than 12 years, when medicinal cannabis became legalised in 2019, Shaun became one of Medicann's first patients when they were the first clinic to open on the Island.

Shaun commented: "When medicinal cannabis came along it changed my life. The drop in my seizures have been incredible. The thing that worried me about medicinal cannabis, was my lung condition, but under the guidance from the Doctors at Medicann, I quickly realised that medicinal cannabis worked for both my COPD and my epilepsy, and now instead of being in hospital every week, I can live a better quality of life. I'm not cured, but I really don't know where I'd be without Medicann "

Prior to being diagnosed with epilepsy, Shaun had already been managing multiple health conditions and when he was 38, he worked for a demolition company and fell through the roof at work, causing serious injuries to his back and legs. His injuries were just the beginning, and his health then started to seriously deteriorate, resulting in being diagnosed with Fibromyalgia in 2001, Epilepsy in 2007, Pulmonary Fibrosis and COPD in 2008 and years later in 2018, Shaun had a Stroke.

Today, Shaun manages his multiple conditions including Epilepsy, under the guidance of a Medicinal Cannabis Prescribing Doctor at Medicann. Shaun has not only seen his seizures dramatically decreased, but his lung function has improved to 99% oxygen, allowing an overall better quality of life for Shaun.

Prior to his treatment with medicinal cannabis, Shaun feared going out in case he had a seizure in public, so this meant that he hardly left the house, but now,



with his prescription medicinal cannabis has made him more confident to venture out and have a little more freedom.

Shaun continued: “I’m a big believer that people need to know about medical cannabis, and what better day than International Epilepsy day to share my story. There’s a lot of misunderstandings around medicinal cannabis, and I would encourage anyone who has a condition that they struggle with, to just speak to Medicann, because you just never know how it might change your life for the better. Medicinal cannabis does not only help my other conditions, but it also helps with my appetite and I eat better, which is so important to my overall health”

Gary Whipp, CEO of local medicinal cannabis clinic Medicann said: “Shaun was one of our first patients at Medicann, and it really is truly amazing to see how medicinal cannabis has made a difference, not only to Shaun, but to his wife (and carer) Tania. Over the years that Shaun has been under the guidance of our Doctors, we have seen Shaun get discharged from the lung clinic because he could breathe again, but on the Epilepsy side of things, he has spent more time at home, as opposed to being in hospital, because the rate of his epilepsy seizures have dramatically decreased. Medicinal cannabis may be prescribed for a number of conditions, and with Shaun having multiple conditions, and being drug intolerant to traditional epilepsy medication, it is amazing to see that with the right guidance, medicinal cannabis has helped to create a better quality of life, where traditional drugs were not an option for Shaun to manage his Epilepsy effectively”

Shaun's wife, and carer, Tania commented: “The last five years for us have been a lot better. We’ve managed to get out more, go out for lunch occasionally and are generally able to enjoy a better quality of life. I no longer live constantly on edge, panicking every five minutes about my husband. It could weigh heavy on me sometimes, it’s a huge responsibility. There was a time when I could barely race to the supermarket, because Shaun was so poorly I feared leaving him alone for more than 20 minutes”



Gary continued: “International Epilepsy Day is an annual awareness-raising initiative, and with multiple types of epilepsy conditions and seizure types, it is difficult for patients to know where to begin. In the UK and Channel Islands, our specialist doctors at Medicann may be able to prescribe a patient medicinal cannabis to help manage Epilepsy, and there is multiple research and case studies to evidence that medicinal cannabis can help to reduce seizures safely”.

Tania added: “ With Shaun being so chronically ill there are battles to be had every day, but we are forever grateful to Medicann for helping us gain control over the epilepsy - it’s reassuring to know that we aren’t alone in this fight”

For anyone interested in finding out more about Epilepsy, Medicann is hosting a free online event on Thursday 15th February at 18:00 ‘ Medicinal cannabis for neurological conditions. The event will be led by Dr Evan Cole Lewis, Neurologist and Medicinal Cannabis and Epilepsy Specialist. To register, go to Eventbrite or visit <https://www.medicann.co.uk/community-events>

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**About Medicann**

- Medicann is an award winning clinic founded in 2019 by CEO Gary Whipp based in Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, and more recently Ireland.
- The patient centric clinic is rated 4.74 on Doctify from patient reviews.
- Medicann is a member of trade bodies: The National Cannabis Industry Association, The Cannabis Trades Association and a founding member of the Cannabis Industry Council.
- Attendees can register for a ticket at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/medicann-talks-medicinal-cannabis->



[for-neurologic-conditions-tickets-811264332457?aff=oddtcreator&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/info/treatment/medical-cannabis-based-treatments-for-neurologic-conditions-tickets-811264332457?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=1)

- Medicann can be found at **www.medicann.co.uk** and on social media platforms including X, Instagram and Facebook:

[twitter.com/MedicannClinics](https://twitter.com/MedicannClinics)

[instagram.com/medicann\\_clinic](https://www.instagram.com/medicann_clinic)

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#### References:

<https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/info/treatment/medical-cannabis-based-treatments>