

Enhancing Clozapine Safety: A Care Home Information Pack with Essential Guidance

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Background

Clozapine is an effective treatment for treatment resistant schizophrenia (1). However, clozapine requires extensive monitoring and is associated with several potentially serious side-effects. Many individuals prescribed clozapine reside in care-homes. It was identified that some care-home staff had limited awareness of clozapine and were less able to support their patients with clozapine.

Method

- Clozapine information pack was developed to provide guidance on clozapine blood test monitoring, side effects, GASS-C, smoking advice, patient information leaflets, and contact details for the local community mental health pharmacy team.
- The information pack was submitted to the trust pharmacy board for approval. Information packs were then delivered in person by pharmacy and nursing team staff to help build relations with local care homes with residents prescribed clozapine.
- Feedback questionnaires were requested and returned.

Develop a clozapine information pack specifically tailored to care-home staff.

Deploy this information pack into the local community.

Assess the impact of the information pack using a feedback questionnaire.

	PAGE
1.0 Introduction	3
1.1 What is clozapine?	3
2.0 How to take clozapine	3
3.0 Side effects	4
3.1 Common side effects	4
3.2 Rare but serious side effects	4
3.2.1 Agranulocytosis	4
3.2.2 Seizures	4
3.2.3 Myocarditis / Cardiomyopathy	4
3.2.4 Constipation	4
3.2.5 Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS)	5
4.0 Monitoring	5
4.1 Baseline investigations	5
4.2 Ongoing monitoring	5
4.2.1 Full blood count monitoring	5
4.2.2 Clozapine level monitoring	6
5.0 Smoking	6
6.0 Advantages of clozapine	6
Appendix 1. Useful contacts	7
Appendix 2. GASS-C	8
Appendix 3. Staff information	9
Appendix 4. Let's talk poo - questionnaire	10
Appendix 5. Clozapine - amber results explained	11
Appendix 6. Clozapine - red results explained	12
Appendix 7. Considering clozapine as a treatment option information sheet	13
Appendix 8. Clozapine - How carers can help	14
Appendix 9. Hypersalivation	15
Appendix 10. The risks from infection	16
Appendix 11. Clozapine and caffeine	17
Appendix 12. Clozapine - constipation	18
Appendix 13. Clozapine and COVID-19	19
Appendix 14. Clozapine and smoking	20
Appendix 15. Clozapine blood levels and what do they mean	21



Figure 2. Map showing the location of the care-homes where information pack was deployed.



Figure 3. Photo showing the clozapine information pack being delivered by SPFT staff to care-home staff

Figure 1. Contents page of clozapine information pack

Results and Discussion

- The information pack was successfully developed, approved, and deployed into local care-homes.
- Information pack supplied to 23 care-homes and 18 feedback forms received (78%).
- 100% of staff stated that the information pack was useful.
- 100% of staff stated that their awareness of the serious side-effects of clozapine improved. Average score of 8/10 prior to reviewing the resource and 9/10 after.
- 100% of staff stated that their confidence on the management of clozapine improved. Average score of 7/10 prior to reviewing the pack and 9/10 after.
- 100% of staff stated that after reviewing the information pack they felt better able to support their residents prescribed clozapine.
- The next steps are to roll out the information pack to more care homes across Sussex to ensure all care homes and patients prescribed clozapine can benefit from this resource.

"This information has been really helpful, it has helped me feel more confident and sure of the information. It is a great tool to reference when you need clarification."



Figure 4. Bar chart showing increase in care-home staff confidence following receipt of the information pack

Conclusion and further work

Feedback shows that this information pack has improved care-home staff awareness and confidence in the management of clozapine. Further work will aim to investigate if there is any reduction in clozapine related safety incidents as a result of improved staff awareness around clozapine.

References

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Psychosis and schizophrenia in adults: prevention and management [Internet]. London, NICE; 2014 [cited 2025 Mar 14]. Clinical guideline CG178. Available from: www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg178