Clozapine

Why Clozapine?
The APA recommends Clozapine for the treatment of patients with treatment resistant schizophrenia (TRS), suicidal ideations and persistent hostility/aggressive behaviors. With TRS estimated to be 20-30%, experts suggest clozapine utilization should be at least 10%. Consistent with national and state clozapine underutilization trends, Alliance providers underutilize clozapine.

Benefits of Clozapine
- Gold standard for TRS.
- Reduces mortality (over other antipsychotics and FGAs).
- Highest efficacy of all antipsychotics.

Comparison of Antipsychotic Efficacy Relative to Placebo

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Keys to Prescribing

- Register with the Clozapine REMs Program.
- Align yourself with a local pharmacy.
- Identify the patients who could benefit from being prescribed clozapine.
- Obtain training and resource information:
  - SMI Advisor (CME credit):
    - Addressing the Barriers to Clozapine Underutilization.
    - Strategies for Successful Use of Clozapine: A Practical Guid.
    - Clozapine Knowledge Base.
    - Getting Started Building Your Clozapine Practice.
    - Clozapine Center of Excellence.
  - Alliance Resources:
    - Clozapine Toolkit containing:
      - Clinical guidance on prescribing, side effects and drug interactions.
      - Medication and community resource information, including for uninsured.
      - Links to patient and family education.
      - Monitoring forms to support patient level tracking.
      - Educational sessions on antipsychotic prescribing (coming in 2021).
  - Pharmacist: (Vera Reinstein, vreinstein@alliancehealthplan.com; 919-928-6856).

Barriers to Clozapine Use

- Lack of training, knowledge and comfort.
- Provider overestimation of patient’s unhappiness with side effects.

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