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](Lancet_2013_382_951-621)

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.

Continued
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

![Graph showing patient and physician perspectives on clozapine](Psychiatry Bull 2000;24:450-2; 1)