

## Clozapine

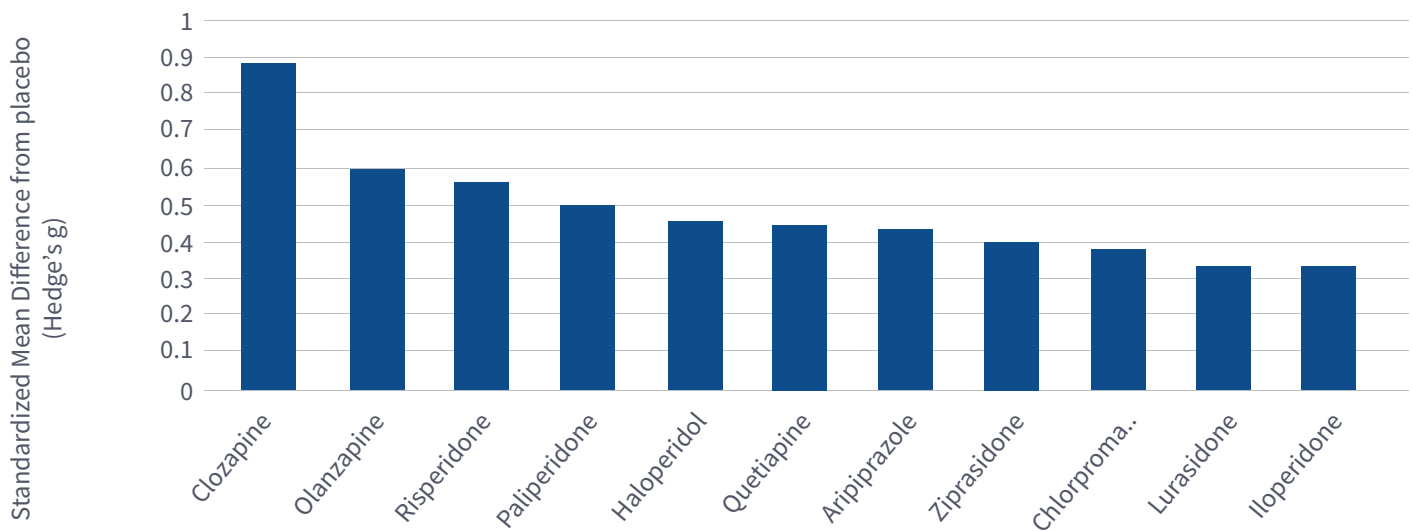
### Why Clozapine?

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 first-generation antipsychotics (FGAs).
- Highest efficacy of all antipsychotics.

Comparison of Antipsychotic Efficacy Relative to Placebo



Lancet 2013;382:951-62 1

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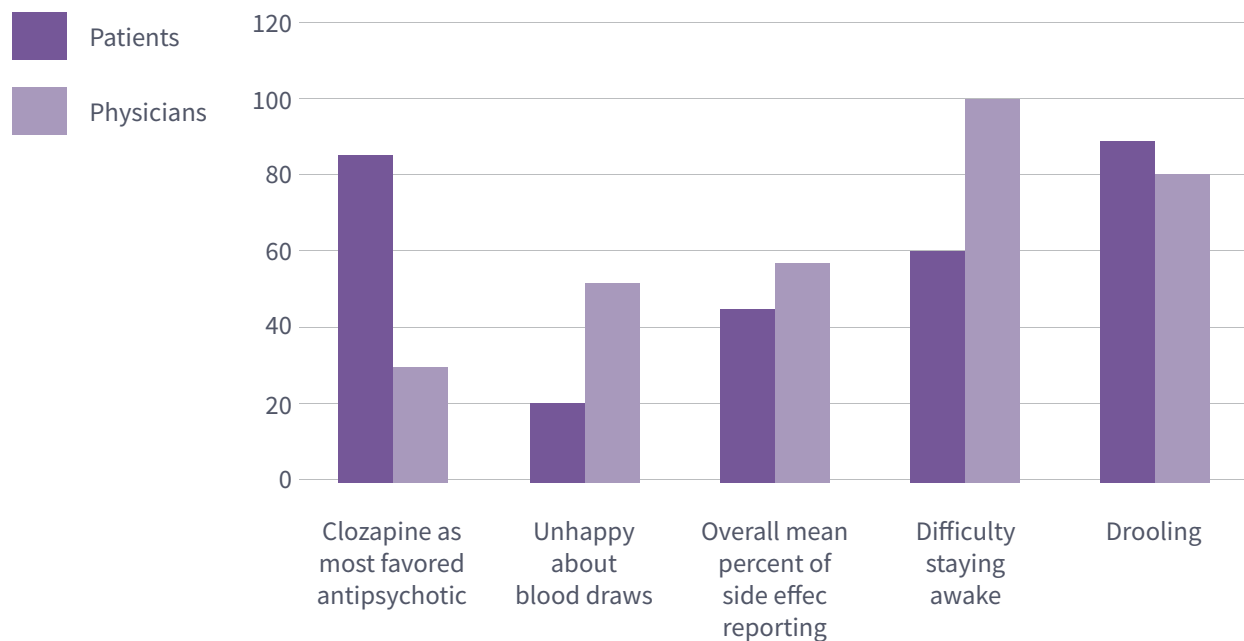
The information presented by Alliance Health above is for informational purposes only. It is not intended for use in lieu of state guidelines or service definitions nor is it to be used to guide individualized treatment. Please refer to your Medicaid contract for additional details.

# 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 Guide.
    - 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](mailto: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



*Psychiatry Bull 2000;24:450-2; 1*