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](image)

_Lancet 2013;382:951-62 1_

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; 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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