



Clozapine Fact Sheet for non-clinicians in Primary Care

- Clozapine is a very effective but high-risk drug
- Brand names are: Clozaril, Zaponex, and Denzapine
- It is only prescribed by specialists
- It requires careful blood monitoring by specialist teams
- Some of the possible side effects of clozapine may appear to be mild but they **can be fatal**
- **Patients taking clozapine who contact the practice or pharmacy complaining of the following symptoms, will need to be seen by a GP (or appropriate emergency out of hours service) on the same day, as they may be symptoms of potentially serious adverse drug reactions:**
 - ❖ **Constipation**
 - ❖ **Fever**
 - ❖ **Chest pain**
 - ❖ **Fast pulse rate**
 - ❖ **Sore throat**
 - ❖ **Bruising**
 - ❖ **Flu-like symptoms**
- If a patient misses their clozapine for more than 48-hours, they will need to be re-started by the specialists
- Only prescribers in the GP practice are able to add clozapine to the patient's list of medications
- It should be recorded on the patient's drug list as 'Hospital only'
 - ❖ If you see clozapine in a patient's 'Current drugs' list, please advise the GP urgently and ask that it be switched to a 'Hospital only' drug
- Any clinic letter or discharge summary advising that clozapine has been started should be urgently flagged to the GP for addition to the patient's drug list as a 'Hospital only' drug
- If you come across a patient who you believe is taking clozapine but does not have it recorded on their drugs list, please check with the GP
- **Remember, GPs do not prescribe it and a community pharmacy cannot dispense it.**