

CLOZAPINE: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



WHAT IS CLOZAPINE?

Clozapine is a highly effective medicine used to treat people with some types of mental illness who have not responded to other treatments or cannot take other treatments.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLOZAPINE THERAPY

- ✓ Clozapine is provided through a special program in CCHCS/DCHS to ensure patient safety because of the potential risks of this therapy.
- ✓ You must agree to have all blood tests required during clozapine therapy. These include:
 - weekly blood tests for the first six months of treatment,
 - blood tests every two weeks for the second 6 months, and
 - at least monthly blood tests after one year of therapy.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF CLOZAPINE?

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| * Constipation, which may be severe | * Seizures |
| * Weight gain | * Rapid heart rate |
| * Drowsiness | * Potentially serious or life-threatening infections |
| * Dizziness or fainting | * Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) |
| * Heavy salivation | * Pulmonary Embolism (blood clot in the lungs) |

CLOZAPINE: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Take your medications as prescribed, do not miss doses.

Tell your healthcare professional about all medications that you are taking, including anything that you take without a prescription.

Report any of the following symptoms to your treatment team right away:

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| • Fever | • Change in heartbeat |
| • Change in bowel pattern | • Shortness of breath |
| • Abdominal pain | • Dizziness or fainting, especially when you stand |
| • Fatigue | • Seizures |

Be sure you also report any other new symptom that you have while you are taking clozapine to your treatment team right away.