

# Responding to Clozapine Alerts in the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)

Dr Susan Heywood, Vicki Huggan, Dr Deborah Cooper. South West CMHT, NHS Lothian.

## Introduction

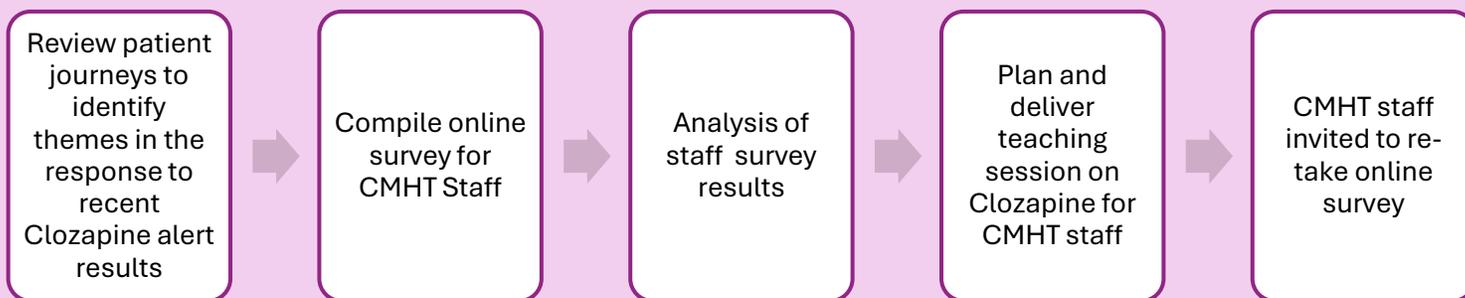
Clozapine is licensed for use in adults with treatment resistant schizophrenia<sup>1</sup>. Clozapine monitoring is carried out by the CMHT each week. Clozapine results are alerted when white cell and/or neutrophil counts fall below defined parameters<sup>2</sup> which prompts action from the CMHT. There were four patients with alert results in the last year in the South West CMHT which prompted this QI project to investigate the confidence of the team response.

## Aims

This project aims to increase the confidence of the Adult Community Mental Health Team in their response to Clozapine alert bloods. This project has the secondary aim to improve staff awareness of actions to take following an alert blood. By improving staff confidence when responding to alert bloods, we seek to provide a Clozapine service to patients with appropriate, equitable and timely care.

## Methods

The project was structured using a Plan-Do-Study-Act approach.



## Results

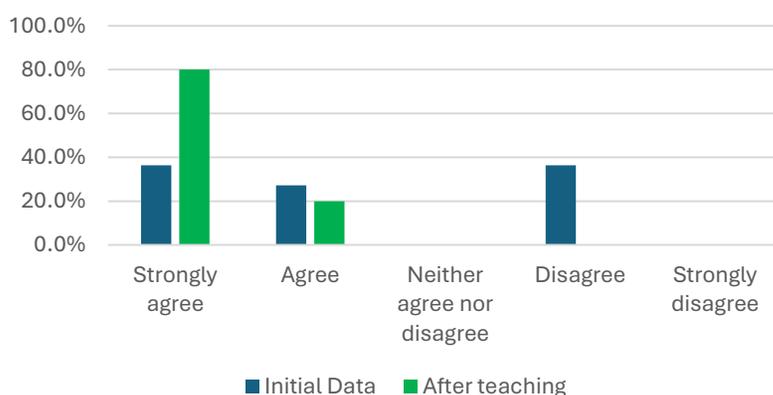
### Cycle 1:

- Most staff agreed or strongly agreed to statements of confidence regarding response to red and amber results and blood test frequency
- More than half of staff felt confident with what information to include in their documentation
- Staff were least confident assessing for signs and symptoms of sepsis

### Cycle 2:

- Following the teaching session, there was an increase in the percentage of staff responding strongly agree to every statement regarding their confidence responding to red and amber results and blood test frequency.
- Percentage of staff who agreed and strongly agreed to feeling confident assessing for sepsis increased from 63.7% to 100%

## Confidence assessing for signs and symptoms suggestive of sepsis



## Conclusion

The second data collection cycle shows an increase in the percentage of staff who felt confident in their response to Clozapine alert bloods following a teaching session delivered on Clozapine. There was also an increase in the percentage of staff who felt confident with the subsequent actions following an alert result. For the next stage of this project, a poster or flow chart for staff reference could be considered.

## References

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Psychosis and Schizophrenia in Adults. Quality Statement 4: Treatment with Clozapine [Internet]. NICE Quality Standard QS80. 12 Feb 2015 [cited 22/09/2025] Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs80/chapter/Quality-statement-4-Treatment-with-clozapine>
2. Department of Pharmacy REH and SJH. NHS Lothian Clozapine Handbook. Version 3. [Intranet] REAS Drug and Therapeutic Committee. Updated April 2025. [cited 24/09/2025] Available from NHS Lothian Intranet