

Clozapine

Emergency protocol for:

Patients on monthly monitoring

If clozapine patients meet the following criteria:

- Have been on clozapine continuously for more than one year, and
- have not had an ANC $<2000/\mu\text{l}$ (or $<1500/\mu\text{l}$ if they have a history of benign ethnic neutropenia), and
- there is no safe or practical access to neutrophil testing, and
- there is a high risk of deterioration if interruption of clozapine therapy were to occur

then clozapine may be dispensed in the absence of a recent (within 42 days) neutrophil count.

In these patients, a neutrophil count should be done at least every 12 weeks.

Dispensing of greater than the 42-day maximum supply may be warranted if there is a likelihood of there being difficulty in accessing a regular supply of clozapine. The maximum dispensed should be 12 weeks.

In effect, the validity of the FBC is now extended to 12 weeks, allowing a maximum supply of 12 weeks from the date of the last 'green' FBC result.

For people on clozapine with symptoms of infection, including fever, sore throat and flu-like symptoms, an urgent neutrophil count is strongly recommended.

Please note, dispensing of clozapine in the absence of an FBC from the past 42 days is outside the limits of clozapine's Product Licence. The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for this out-of-licence use.

Professor David Taylor
Director of Pharmacy

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