

# MONITORING PATIENTS ON CLOZAPINE

## Indications for test

There are approximately 300 patients in East Kent who are prescribed Clozapine (Clozaril, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Ltd). Weekly monitoring of full blood count (FBC) is required during the first 18 weeks of treatment as they are at risk of developing neutropenia/agranulocytosis. Thereafter, monitoring is required fortnightly and then every 4 weeks. If at any time treatment is discontinued then weekly monitoring has to recommence.

The drug can only be prescribed if FBC results are available.

Clinics are held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at various locations (see appendix 1). Measurement of plasma clozapine concentration is required rarely in these patients. When measuring plasma clozapine concentrations the pre-dose samples (purple top tube) should be sent directly from the clinics to Analytical Services International (ASI), Jenner Wing, St. Georges University of London, Cranmer Terrace, London, SW17 0RE (Tel: 020 8725 2405). The sample containers, jiffy bags and labels are provided by Clozaril Patient Monitoring Service (Tel: 0845 769 8269) and must be used for this purpose. Plasma clozapine requests should not be sent to the East Kent Hospital laboratories. However, the FBC may need to be measured locally as described below.

## Contradictions

None

## Procedure

- Community staff should be aware of the appropriate need to fill in the request forms correctly and only use a hospital request form if tests need to be undertaken locally in which case only a FBC with WBC differential is to be requested. The request form must state that the patient is on Clozapine (Clozaril) and it must include the requester's contact details.

Patients present for phlebotomy with request form, sample tube, patient label and the required packaging and envelope. Samples are despatched to Clozaril Patient Monitoring Service (CPMS) in the packaging provided by the company:

CPMS laboratories  
60 Whitfield Street,  
London,  
W1T 4EU  
Tel: 08457698269

- In certain circumstances samples requiring an FBC may need to be analysed in East Kent. This is usually at the end of the week (Thurs/ Fri), during disruption of normal postal service, in patients at risk of toxicity, in patients showing signs of infection (inc. sore throat & flu symptoms) or if for some reason the patient did not attend their regular clozapine clinic.
- If analysis is required in the local laboratory samples must be treated as urgent.
  - patient may arrive in phlebotomy or the sample will arrive in laboratory with a hospital request form
  - sample will be tested for full blood count with white blood cell differential (diff) only

- samples must be in the laboratory by lunch time
- samples need to be analysed and results authorised by 15.00 hours
- the test requester will ring the laboratory for results after 15.00 hours

Telephone numbers for the requester to contact the laboratories are:

- 01227 864151 – Kent and Canterbury Hospital
- 01843 234250 – Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital

### Interpretation

- If total white blood cell (WBC) count is  $<3.0 \times 10^9/L$  and/or neutrophil  $<1.5 \times 10^9/L$  a member of laboratory staff must ring the requester and inform them of the results.

### Consultation

Consultation has been through e-mail communication between clinical biochemistry (Dr Sally Stock), haematology (Dr G Evans, consultant haematologist) and hospital pharmacy (Mr Jagdip Bahia Chief Pharmacist Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust). Copies of correspondence are filed on the S-drive (pathology/clinical biochemistry/communication with users/clinical guidelines/clozapine\_2021).

Appendix 1: Clozapine contact details of clinics that run in Kent**Ashford**

Ashford Clozapine Clinic is open on: Monday 9 - 4pm  
The clinic is located at Eureka Park, Eureka Business Park TN25 4 BY  
Phone: 01233 658100

**Canterbury**

Laurel House Clozapine Clinic is open on Wednesday:  
1.00 pm – 4.00pm The clinic is located at Laurel House, Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3HH  
Phone: 01227 597111

**Dartford**

Arndale house clozapine clinic is open on Wednesday 9.00 – 4.00pm:  
The clinic is located at  
Arndale House, 18-20 Spital St, Dartford DA1 2DL  
Phone: 01322 622230

**Dover**

Coleman House Clozapine Clinic is open on:  
Tuesday 9.00 – 4.00pm  
The Clinic is located at Brookfield Avenue  
Dover  
CT16 2AH  
Phone: 01304 216666

**Folkestone**

Ash Eton Clozapine Clinic is open on:  
Tuesday 9.00 – 4.00pm  
The clinic is located at Ash Eton Radnor Park West, Folkestone CT19 5HL  
Phone: 01303 2227510

**Gillingham**

Britton House Clozapine Clinic  
is open on:  
Monday 9.30-4.00pm  
Tuesday 9.30am – 4.00pm  
The clinic is located at  
Britton House, Britton Farm, High St,  
Gillingham ME7 1AL  
Phone: 0300 3033189

**Herne Bay**

Kings Road Clozapine Clinic is open on:  
Monday 9.00 – 4pm  
The clinic is located at 11 Kings Road, Herne Bay CT6 5DD  
Phone: 01227 2065540

**Maidstone**

Albion Place Clozapine Clinic is open on:  
Monday from 9.00 - 4.00pm  
The clinic is located at Albion Place Medical Centre, Kingswood CMHC  
23-29 Albion Place, Maidstone  
Kent ME14 5TS  
Phone: 01622 766900

**Thanet**

The Beacon Clozapine Clinic is open on Tuesday from 9.00 – 4.00pm  
The clinic is located at The Beacon, Manston Road, Ramsgate CT12 6NT  
Phone: 01843 855200

**Tunbridge Wells**

Highlands House Clozapine Clinic is open on:  
Tuesday from 9.30 – 4.00pm The clinic is located at Highlands House, 10–12 Calverley Park Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent,  
TN1 2JN  
Phone: 01892 709211