

## Important information about patients on Clozapine

# Mental Health Services

Clozapine, tradename Clozaril® or Clopine®, is a medication regulated by the TGA, subsidised under the Highly Specialised Drugs Program. The medication may cause serious side effects in a small proportion of the population especially if stopped abruptly or recommenced at the regular dose after therapy interruption or noncompliance.

### If a patient admitted to your ward is prescribed clozapine then you must:

- > Contact the patient's community clozapine coordinator. (see list below)
- > If the patient has missed the medication for 48 hours, clozapine must be re-titrated from 12.5mg to reduce the risk of serious side effects. Contact your local psychiatry team for advice.
- > Patients who have commenced clozapine within the last 18 weeks will require weekly complete blood picture (CBP) monitoring. From 18 weeks patients require 4 weekly CBP monitoring. This is to monitor the white cell count for agranulocytosis and neutropenia, a side effect that will place the patient at risk of infection, sepsis and death.
- > If clozapine is missed or ceased, the patient may have rebound acute psychosis, which will need to be treated accordingly – contact your local psychiatry team for advice.
- > Cessation of smoking may cause substantial rises in the clozapine levels, with potential for complications to occur, including sudden death. Contact your local psychiatry team for advice. Monitor for signs of clozapine toxicity. Refer to the MHD clozapine smoking cessation procedure.
- > Other side effects include myocarditis, arrhythmia, pulmonary embolus, seizures, acute renal failure and severe constipation. These may be silent events with the patient not complaining of symptoms.

### For more information and assistance:

Clozapine Coordinators work Monday to Friday, with a number of clinics running across the Adelaide metropolitan area. Detailed information concerning a mental health patient's recent stability and care plan can be obtained from the Community Based Information System (CBIS) accessible by emergency department mental health teams, local Consult Liaison Psychiatry teams and Mental Health Triage (a 24 hour a day, seven day a week service). Please see the following table for phone numbers for these services.

### Mental Health Triage: Call 13 14 65

*Community Mental Health Service (CMHS)*

Community Clozapine Clinics	Address	Contact no.	Fax no.
Eastern CMHS (Hallett / Glynburn)	172 Glynburn Road, Tranmere SA 5073	7425 5555	7425 5424
Forensic Community Team	200 Fosters Road, Oakden SA 5086	8282 0441	8261 1599
Inner South CMHS	GP Plus, 10 Milham St, Oaklands Park SA 5046	7425 8500	7425 8257
Northern CMHS	7-9 Park Terrace, Salisbury SA 5108	7485 4300	7485 4404
North Eastern CMHS Modbury	116 Reservoir Rd, Modbury SA 5092	7425 7300	7425 7303
Southern CMHS Noarlunga	Adaire Clinic, Alexander Kelly Drive, Noarlunga Centre SA 5168	8384 9599	8384 1629
Western CMHS (Port / West)	57 Woodville Rd, Woodville SA 5011	7425 3800	7425 3999

Inpatient Units	Address	Contact no.	Fax no.
Flinders Medical Centre	Margaret Tobin Centre, Flinders Drive, Bedford Park SA 5042	8404 2591	8404 2582
Forensic James Nash House	James Nash House, Fosters Road, Oakden SA 5086	8266 9600	8266 9601
Forensic Ashton House	290 Fosters Road, Oakden SA 5086	7425 5222	7425 5211
Glenside Health Services	Pharmacy, Glenside Health Services, 226 Fullarton Road, Glenside SA 5065	7087 1222	7087 1231
Lyell McEwin Hospital	Ward 1G, Haydown Road, Elizabeth Vale SA 5112	8182 9318	8182 9385
Modbury Hospital	Woodleigh House, 41-69 Smart Road, Modbury SA 5092	8161 2355	8161 2599
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Cramond Clinic, 28 Woodville Rd, Woodville SA 5011	8222 7070	8222 6564
Royal Adelaide Hospital	Port Road, Adelaide SA 5000	7074 3800	7074 6127
Women's & Children's Hospital	Boylan Ward, 72 King William Rd, North Adelaide 5006	8372 1620 0423822030	8305 1535