
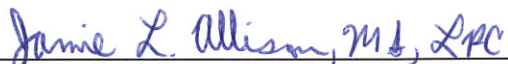




**COBB COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**

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Policy # 8009	Clozapine Usage
Origination Date: September 2001	
Revision Date: September 2004; April 7, 2006; February 13, 2007; February 7, 2008; February 26, 2009, May 15, 2013	
Reviewed Date: June 2005; May 25, 2010, October 3, 2012, July 7, 2016	
Approved:	
 Bryan G. Stephens Interim Executive Director	 Jamie Allison, Chief Quality Officer

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Cobb County Community Services Board and the Douglas County Community Services Board that clozapine shall be used in a manner that maintains therapeutic effectiveness and safety at all times. Both Clozaril from Novartis and generic clozapine from Zenith Goldline will be used.

PROCEDURE:

1. Careful consideration will be given to clients selected for clozapine therapy. Clozapine is an anti-psychotic medication that will be used as a second line drug due to the related increased risks associated with its use, particularly agranulocytosis with the exception of using Clozapine as a first line drug to reduce the risk of recurrent suicidal behavior in patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective behavior. Complete education about the regimen and risks associated with the drug will be fully explained to the client well in advance of initiating the therapy. Documentation for the rationale for clozapine, the client education and the client's agreement will be entered in the Client's Medical Records.
2. When a client has begun clozapine therapy, a slow gradual titration will be followed with close monitoring by medical and nursing staff. The client's response to medication will be documented at each visit. Monitoring for clinical effectiveness and side effects will be documented along with client education about self-care interventions to minimize side effects.
3. All clients receiving clozapine will be monitored for leukopenia via regular analysis of a baseline CBC with differential. After that weekly monitoring of a client's WBC is adequate. Monitoring of a client's white blood cell count (WBC) will be done weekly if the client has been on clozapine for less than six months. For clients who have received clozapine for six months and whose WBC has remained within normal limits (above 3500/mm³), the frequency of WBC monitoring may be increased to monthly, upon MD/APRN order. If there is a break in clozapine therapy of less than one year but WBC has remained within normal limits, the client may be maintained on monthly monitoring. If the client develops any degree of leukopenia, there must be at least a six-month period in which the WBC is within normal limits before monthly monitoring can be instituted. If the client's WBC falls below 3500/mm³, the ordering practitioner will be notified immediately. Specific actions will be taken in accordance with published guidelines from the drug manufacturer.