GP Practice address CMHT address

Date

Dear Dr …

On the following page is a list of patients registered at your practice who are prescribed clozapine. Please can you add clozapine as a prescribed medication to the summary care record of these patients. Guidance about how to do this is given at the end of this letter.

The prescribing, monitoring and supply of clozapine is managed by Dorset Healthcare. This will remain the case.

Adding clozapine to the summary care record will alert acute hospitals when there are admissions. There have been several incidents locally where this was not identified, leading to rapid deterioration in mental health.

It is also important that you and your colleagues are aware that a patient is taking clozapine, because of the potential adverse effects and drug interactions listed below (see BNF/SPC for full list). Please contact the CMHT or an appropriate specialist if they occur.

* **Constipation (Paralytic Ileus)** – Biggest cause of fatality with clozapine in the UK. Active treatment of constipation is recommended and long term treatment should be considered. Refer to specialist if no bowel movement for longer than a week.
* **Agranulocytosis** – Most common in first four months with incidence decreasing after a year. FBC monitored by CMHT but contact if present with unexplained bruising, sore throat or fever.
* **Myocarditis/myopathy** – Occurs mainly in first two months of treatment. Monitor for flu-like symptoms, tachycardia and chest pain.
* **Metabolic syndrome** – Weight gain, raised glucose and lipids.
* **Interactions** (most significant listed but not exhaustive)**:**
	+ **Medications that lower WBC** e.g. carbamazepine, carbimazole, cytotoxics, sulphonamides (co-trimoxazole), other antipsychotics.
	+ **Medication that increase risk of constipation** e.g. opioids, loperamide, anticholinergics
	+ **Enzyme inhibitors of clozapine (increase level)** e.g. fluvoxamine (up to 10 fold), caffeine (up to 50%, contact CMHT if significantly changing habit)
	+ **Enzyme inducers of clozapine (decrease level)** e.g. Rifampicin, phenytoin, carbamazepine, tobacco smoke (up to 50%, contact CMHT if stopping)

Yours sincerely

… CMHT

How to record Hospital Prescribed Medicines on GP Prescribing Systems

**TPP SystmOne**

This is one method for recording hospital prescribed medicines on the summary care record. Please use whichever method works best for you on your system, but take care not to enter the medicine on the record in a way that results in a prescription being generated.

* Right click on the medication node of the Clinical Tree
* Select **Record Other Medication**
* Enter the name of the medication you are recording in the **Drug and Appliance** window
* Click **Search**
* Select the particular formulation of the drug you require (Clozaril tablets/Denzapine oral solution)
* Click **OK**
* Choose a **Medication Source**
* Enter any information about the dose and quantity that you have
* Click **OK**
* Once **saved** any medications added following the above will appear in the patient’s SCR