

7 February 2025

Clozapine Initiations and Titration Protocol

I am writing to request information regarding the Clozapine initiation protocol within Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, specifically in relation to the following points:

1. **Clozapine Titration Protocol:** Please provide a copy of or details about the current Clozapine initiation protocols used by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. This includes the procedures, guidelines, and any specific criteria followed for titrating Clozapine doses.

Please see the regionally agreed Clozapine Care Pathway (Attachment 1) and Community Initiation form referred to (Attachment 2), which are used in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

2. **Clozapine initiation:** How many patients with an ICD-10 diagnosis of F20 to F29 were on the caseload in 2024? How many patients were initiated on clozapine in 2024 in any setting?

Belfast Trust's Community Mental Health Team would not be in a position to answer this question. They do not hold data on the amount of service users open to their service with ICD-10 diagnosis F20 to F29. The Community Mental Health Team would not hold data on clozapine initiations in any setting.

3. **Outpatient Clozapine Initiation:** Does Belfast Health and Social Care Trust offer Clozapine initiation in an outpatient setting? If so, how many patients were initiated via this route in 2024?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust can offer Clozapine initiations in an outpatient setting. The Clozapine / Lithium Team completed <5 (less than 5) full community titrations and <5 re-titrations in 2024.

Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable.

Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

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- 4. Specialised Teams vs. CMHT Responsibilities: Is Clozapine titration conducted by a specialised or dedicated team within Belfast Health and Social Care Trust? Do Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) carry out clozapine initiation as part of their general duties? If it is done by a specialised / dedicated team, please provide further details regarding the structure of the team.**

The Community Mental Health Team have a dedicated team, the Clozapine / Lithium Team, that carry out titration and monitoring for these medications in the community within the Belfast Trust area.

The Clozapine / Lithium Team operates Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and is comprised of:

- 1 x Band 7 Team Leader
- 3 x Band 6 Community Psychiatric Nurses
- 3 x Band 5 Community Psychiatric Nurses
- 2 x Band 3 Health Care Assistants

- 5. Clozapine Titration for Under-18s: Does Belfast Health and Social Care Trust offer Clozapine initiation for patients under the age of 18? If so, when was this practice introduced and are there any specific guidelines for titrating Clozapine in this age group?**

Adult Service - The Community Mental Health Team is an adult service (over 18 years old). They do not provide services to patients under 18 years old.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) - Belfast Trust has initiated patients under the age of 18 onto Clozapine. However, this rare.

Unfortunately, we are unable to give dates of when this first occurred.

The Trust will follow best practice guidelines in the prescribing of all medication