



# Things to Know About Starting Clozapine

## ***Why Clozapine Now?***

Clozapine is a more effective antipsychotic medication when two antipsychotics have failed to help previously. The earlier we treat psychosis, the better the outcomes.



Get your lab investigations on time as your pharmacist needs to see the results before releasing your medication. If you have problems, speak to your physician or case manager



Please attend all appointments at your team and if you can't, call and let them know. Your regular examination is needed to ensure safety and success.

## **Possible Side Effects**

Like any other medication, clozapine comes with a list of potential side effects. Different clients experience different side effects and some of them can be serious. Close monitoring of all side effects is a requirement when starting clozapine. However, most side effects resolve with time. Speak to your physician and your case manager about all your side effects.

Adverse Side effects that **can wait until the next day** include:

- excessive salivation
- excessive sedation
- mild fever
- flu-like symptoms
- mild dizziness when standing up
- constipation

Adverse side effects that **need immediate medical attention from your team, Primary Care Provider, Access & Assessment Centre or Emergency Department** include:

- high fever
- chest pain
- breathlessness
- intolerable restlessness
- severe pain anywhere in your body
- confusion
- severe stiffness
- seizures