

October 18, 2021

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing further to our telephone conversation on October 8, 2021. At that time, you identified that you and your colleagues are giving consideration to initiating treatment with clozapine for patients in the community. I understand that this medication, due to its need for monitoring, historically has been initiated within an in-patient setting. You contacted the Association as you wished to discuss whether you and your colleagues would be assuming any greater liability should you initiate the medication in the community.

As discussed, the CMPA is a mutual defence organization whose role does not include the establishment of any type of standards or guidelines for the medical profession. Rather, the CMPA's role is principally risk-management driven. Therefore, it is not the role of the Association to provide an opinion on whether or not clozapine should be started in the community, the hospital, or any other care environment.

With regard to prescribing clozapine, a physician who elects to do so would be responsible for their decision in the same way that they would be responsible for any medication they prescribe. To minimize risk, one would want to ensure that in doing so, one is practising in alignment with the prevailing practice of the psychiatric community and in keeping with any existing guidelines from professional associations. Additionally, to manage risk it can be important to ensure that one has a fulsome consent conversation with the patient and that documentation is made of this conversation. It can also be prudent, when prescribing a medication, to ensure that any necessary follow up and investigations have been arranged and that it is clear who will be providing the follow up.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

 CMPA/ACPM

[REDACTED]

Physician Advisor - Medico-Legal Services

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