



**CIRCULAR H42/2020**

**TO: DDG: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS**

**CHIEF DIRECTORS; DIRECTORS; HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS**

**MANAGER: CAPE MEDICAL DEPOT**

**HEAD OF HEALTH: CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

**RESPONSIBLE PHARMACIST: CHRONIC DISPENSING UNIT**

**N.B. FOR CIRCULATION TO ALL MEDICAL, PARAMEDICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND NURSING PERSONNEL**

**CLOZAPINE MONITORING DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 CRISIS**

The risk of agranulocytosis in patients receiving clozapine is rare, but serious.

Importantly, the need for weekly white cell counts (neutrophils) and the risk of a missed agranulocytosis needs to be weighed up against the risk to the patient of regular clinic visits and exposure in the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The Provincial Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee EXCO therefore suggest that the following may be considered as an interim measure during the COVID-19 pandemic, effective until the further notice.

- Patients who are currently monitored weekly may be monitored monthly.
- Patients who have been stabilised on long-term therapy and who are currently monitored on a monthly basis may be monitored every alternate month.
- Patients to be advised to consult with a healthcare worker urgently if they are on clozapine, AND they have a sore throat and/or fever, since this may be indicative of a neutropenia.

**MS K LOWENHERZ**

**DIRECTOR: PHARMACY SERVICES**

**DATE:** 30/03/20