CLOZAPINE: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

WHAT IS CLOZAPINE?
Clozapine is a highly effective medicine used to treat people with some types of mental illness who have not responded to other treatments or cannot take other treatments.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLOZAPINE THERAPY
- Clozapine is provided through a special program in CCHCS/DCHS to ensure patient safety because of the potential risks of this therapy.
- You must agree to have all blood tests required during clozapine therapy. These include:
  - weekly blood tests for the first six months of treatment,
  - blood tests every two weeks for the second 6 months, and
  - at least monthly blood tests after one year of therapy.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF CLOZAPINE?
- Constipation, which may be severe
- Weight gain
- Drowsiness
- Dizziness or fainting
- Heavy salivation
- Seizures
- Rapid heart rate
- Potentially serious or life-threatening infections
- Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart)
- Pulmonary Embolism (blood clot in the lungs)

CLOZAPINE: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Take your medications as prescribed, do not miss doses.
Tell your healthcare professional about all medications that you are taking, including anything that you take without a prescription.
Report any of the following symptoms to your treatment team right away:
- Fever
- Change in bowel pattern
- Abdominal pain
- Fatigue
- Change in heartbeat
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness or fainting, especially when you stand
- Seizures

Be sure you also report any other new symptom that you have while you are taking clozapine to your treatment team right away.