

WMER

Improving Side Effect Monitoring & Documentation for Patients on Clozapine at Lake View Clinic

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MH 2025-26 03: Improving Side Effect Monitoring & Documentation for Patients on Clozapine at Lake View Clinic

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Aug 25



Project Aim: By 31 July 2025, 100% of patients on Clozapine attending Lake View Clinic will have their side effects systematically assessed and documented using the Glasgow Antipsychotic Side-effect Scale for Clozapine (GASS-C) tool at annual review, with completion rates and common side effects monitored to support ongoing improvement.

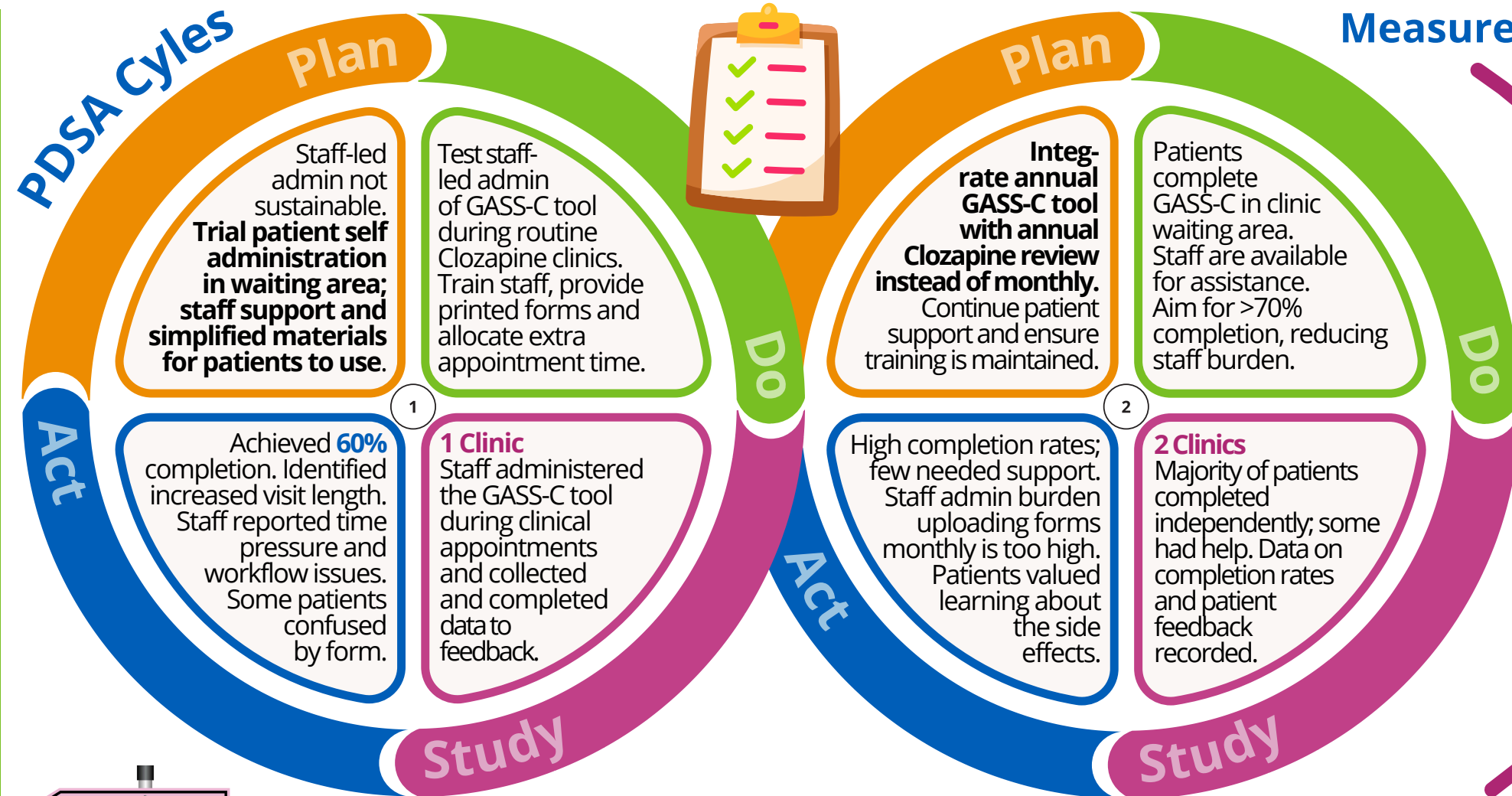
Rationale: Clozapine is an essential treatment for individuals living with treatment-resistant schizophrenia and is associated with a range of side effects requiring regular monitoring. National and local audits, including the POMH programme, have indicated a gap in consistent detection and documentation of side effects using a structured tool at Lake View Clinic. This may affect both patient safety and clinical outcomes. At Lake View Clinic, previous practice did not include routine use of a validated, systematic assessment tool such as the Glasgow Antipsychotic Side-effect Scale for Clozapine (GASS-C). Instead, structured monitoring was limited to the Bristol Stool Chart, with broader side-effect surveillance reliant upon clinical interviews that were not standardized. Standardizing side-effect assessment will help to support the early identification and management of both common and serious adverse effects and bring local practice in line with POMH recommendations.



100% of Clozapine patients attending annual review had at least one structured, documented GASS-C assessment (Jul 25).

Change Ideas

- Staff training in GASS-C use
- GASS-C tool introduced for all Clozapine patients
- Information leaflets and support provided to encourage patient self-administration
- Clear plan for recording and review as part of annual comprehensive assessment



Measures:

Process Measures

Number and type of Clozapine related side effects identified and documented. Action taken in response to identified side effects.

Outcome Measures

Reported impact on clinic workflow and staff workload
Patient experience/acceptability (feedback responses)

Balancing Measures

Reported impact on clinic workflow and staff workload
Patient experience/acceptability (feedback responses)

Outcomes:

Time demands reduced with patient self-admin.

Patients valued learning about side effects.

Patient self-administration works if clear instructions and staff support are provided.

Data revealed key clinical priorities (e.g., regular review of sedation and drooling).

Improved meaningful clinician-patient dialogue about side effects.

OLD WAY

NEW WAY

GASS-C tool to remain embedded as part of the annual Clozapine review for patients

NEW WAY

To revisit the process annually and offer refresher training.

NEW WAY

Findings to be fed back to Trust for wider rollout to other clinical settings.