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Governor

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Commissioner

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Chief Medical Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: NYS Article 31 Mental Health Provider Agencies
NYS Article 28 Hospital Psychiatry Chiefs
OMH-Operated Psychiatric Center Executive Directors, Clinical Directors, Chief
Nursing Officers, Pharmacists

FROM: Dr. Thomas Smith, Chief Medical Officer, OMH

DATE: March 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Clozapine and blood test monitoring

I have communicated with both the FDA and Clozapine REMS and can confirm that prescribers and pharmacies have discretion to order and dispense clozapine without an absolute neutrophil count reported within the specified timeframes. The following is posted on the Clozapine REMS website (<https://www.clozapinerems.com/CpmgClozapineUI/home.u#>):

*****Important Program Update (as of 01/23/2020)*****

ANC Current Lab Requirements

Absolute Neutrophil Count not current (i.e., within 7, 15, or 31 days of the lab draw date) based on the patient's monitoring frequency (MF) will not prevent a patient from receiving clozapine from the pharmacy.

Although 'ANC not current' will not prevent a patient from receiving clozapine from the pharmacy, pharmacies are encouraged to submit the ANC to the Clozapine REMS Program when the pharmacist is made aware of a more current ANC than the most recent lab value reported in the PDA response...

CC:
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