**CLOZAPINE (CLOZARIL®)**
*Patient Education Handout*

### IMPORTANT WARNINGS
- This drug may lower the ability of the bone marrow to make white blood cells. This can lead to very bad and sometimes deadly infections. Give this drug to your child only if his/her health problem has not been helped by other drugs or if your child has planned to harm him/herself in the past and has a chance of doing it again. Your child will need to have his/her blood work checked before care, during care, and for at least 4 weeks after this drug is stopped. Do what the doctor tells you about blood tests while your child is taking this drug.
- You may only get this drug through a special program. Talk with your doctor.
- This drug may cause seizures. The chance of seizures may be higher with higher doses or if your child has ever had seizures. Have your child use care when doing tasks or actions that may not be safe for your child if your child were to pass out.
- This drug may raise the chance of a very bad and sometimes deadly heart problem (myocarditis). Most of the time, these heart problems have happened within the first 2 months of care but may happen at any time. Call the doctor right away if your child has a big weight gain, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, chest pain or pressure, a fast heartbeat, fever, flu-like signs, shortness of breath, swelling in the arms or legs, or very bad dizziness or passing out.

### IMPORTANT WARNINGS
- Low blood pressure, passing out, slow heartbeat, and heart attacks have happened with this drug. These problems can be deadly. The chance of these problems is highest when this drug is first started. Do not give your child more than you were told or raise your child’s dose faster than you were told. Tell the doctor if your child has heart problems (heart attack, blood vessel problems, heart failure, or a heartbeat that is not normal) or brain problems. Tell the doctor if your child has fluid loss (dehydrated) or if your child takes drugs for high blood pressure.

### WHAT IS THIS DRUG USED FOR?
- To treat problems with how one acts
- To treat schizophrenia
- May be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

### GENERAL DRUG FACTS
- Tell all doctors, dentists, and surgeons that your child is using this drug
- Tell your doctor if your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your child’s drugs and before giving your child any new drug (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins)
- Storage:
  - Store at room temperature
  - Protect from light
  - Store in a dry place
WHAT ARE SIDE EFFECTS THAT I NEED TO CALL MY CHILD’S DOCTOR ABOUT RIGHT AWAY? RARE BUT SERIOUS

• Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing or talking; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat

• Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.

• Signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, more thirst, more hunger, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit

• Trouble controlling body movements, twitching, change in balance, trouble swallowing or speaking

• A very bad and sometimes deadly health problem called neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) may happen. Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has any fever, muscle cramps or stiffness, dizziness, very bad headache, confusion, change in thinking, fast heartbeat, heartbeat that does not feel normal, or is sweating a lot.

• Some people who take this drug may get a very bad muscle problem called tardive dyskinesia. Muscle problems may also occur after short-term use with low doses. Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has trouble controlling body movements or if your child has muscle problems with his/her tongue, face, mouth, or jaw like tongue sticking out, puffing cheeks, mouth puckering, or chewing.

WHAT ARE SOME SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS DRUG?

All drugs may cause side effects. Call your child’s doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away.

• Dizziness
• Feeling sleepy
• Hard stools (constipation)
• Dry mouth
• Upset stomach or throwing up
• Weight gain
• Not able to sleep
• Drooling
• Headache
• Sweating a lot
WHAT SHOULD I KNOW OR DO WHILE MY CHILD TAKES THIS DRUG?

- To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, have your child get up slowly over a few minutes when sitting or lying down. Have your child be extra careful climbing stairs.
- Have your child’s blood sugar checked as you have been told by your child’s doctor. This drug can raise blood sugar.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- Talk with your doctor before you use other drugs and natural products that slow your actions.
- If your child smokes or will be stopping smoking, talk with the doctor. How much drug your child takes may need to be changed.
- Blood clots have happened with this drug. Tell the doctor if your child has had a blood clot.
- Have your child get a heart function test. Talk with your child’s doctor.
- Tell the doctor if your child uses caffeine products (tea, coffee, cola, chocolate). How much drug your child takes may need to be changed.
- Have your child be careful in hot weather or while being active. Have your child drink lots of fluids to stop fluid loss.
- This drug can cause very bad and sometimes deadly stomach or bowel problems like very hard stools (constipation) or bowel block. Have your child drink lots of noncaffeine liquids unless told to drink less liquid by the doctor.
- This drug may cause weight gain. Your child’s weight may need to be checked often.

HOW IS THIS DRUG BEST GIVEN?

- Give this drug as you have been told, even if your child feels well.
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss giving your child doses.
- Give this drug with or without food.
- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your child’s next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child’s normal time.
- Do not give 2 doses or extra doses.
- Do not stop giving this drug to your child all of a sudden without calling the doctor. Your child may have a greater risk of signs of withdrawal. If your child needs to stop this drug, you will want to slowly stop it as ordered by the doctor.