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## SESLHD – Growth in GP Prescription of Clozapine through the GP Shared Care Program

The **Eastern Suburbs Mental Health Service (ESMHS)**, part of the **South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD)**, based at **Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick**, has observed a significant increase in the number of General Practitioners (GPs) participating in the **GP Shared Care (GPSC) Program** for mental health clients prescribed clozapine.

Currently, ESMHS supports approximately **230 mental health clients** who are prescribed the antipsychotic medication **clozapine**. The **GPSC Program**, established in **2020**, enables GPs to safely prescribe and manage clozapine for their patients. Participating GPs conduct **four-weekly appointments** to review blood test results and issue prescriptions.

The **ESMHS Clozapine Team** provides comprehensive support to all clients engaged in the Shared Care Program, with each client reviewed by their treating psychiatrist **every six months** to assess medication dosage and overall treatment progress.

To date, **34 GPs across 17 clinics** in the Eastern Suburbs are successfully participating in the program, contributing to improved accessibility and integration of care for patients with complex mental health needs.

### Program Benefits

- **Continuity of care:** GPs are ideally positioned to provide ongoing management and close monitoring of physical health comorbidities often associated with clozapine use.
- **Collaborative and holistic approach:** The program promotes strong collaboration between GPs and mental health clinicians to deliver integrated, patient-centred care.
- **Accessible clinical support:** GPs have direct access to the mental health team involved in the patient's care during business hours for consultation and escalation of any clinical concerns.
- **Timely and low-stigma care:** Care delivered through general practice settings is often more timely, cost-effective and provided in a less stigmatised environment.
- **Education and resources:** Comprehensive education and ongoing support are available to GPs participating in the GPSC Program.

## **Eligibility**

- Any GP is eligible to participate, no specific accreditation required
- Mental health client must be engaged with Eastern Suburbs Mental Health Service and being prescribed clozapine anti-psychotic medication

## **Further Information**

For more information on GP participation in clozapine prescribing through the Shared Care Program, please contact:

**Joanne Ashby**, GP Shared Care Coordinator, Eastern Suburbs Mental Health Service (SESLHD)

Phone: **(02) 9382 3753**