

# Medication Review: One Small Step for Pharmacy, One Giant Leap for Patient Care

## Objective

To report a case highlighting the importance of reviewing patients' medication histories to optimise future medication management decisions.

## Clinical features

Mr B is a 58 year old male with a long history of chronic schizoaffective disorder. Upon admission to hospital, he expressed significant delusions as well as a depressed mood. The diagnosis formulated was a relapse of schizoaffective disorder due to medication non-adherence.

## Case Progress

During admission Mr B was trialled on different antipsychotic medications with no response.

## Case Progress Cont..

Clozapine was therefore commenced as per management of treatment resistant Schizoaffective disorder guidelines.<sup>1</sup> Mr B remained floridly psychotic and dysthymic in mood. He had excessive sedation, troubling hyper-salivation and multiple spikes in both temperature (~38.5° C) and C-reactive protein (CRP) (140, 130 mg/L) that were accompanied by high clozapine levels. His presentation prompted investigation for infection and myocarditis on multiple occasions. Results for these were negative.

## Interventions

Clozapine was ceased following poor clinical efficacy and intolerable side-effects. A pharmacist medication review was conducted and revealed the patient had responded to olanzapine on multiple occasions in the past. Olanzapine was recommenced for his psychotic symptoms in conjunction with electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) for his affective symptoms.

## Outcomes

Clozapine was ceased and Mr B's CRP returned to baseline; his fever resolved and the hyper-salivation and over-sedation dramatically improved. Mr B's mood and psychotic symptoms were ameliorated on the combination of olanzapine, lithium carbonate and ECT. He was discharged back to the community after spending 237 days in hospital.

## Conclusions

This case highlights the benefits of a pharmacist conducting a thorough patient medication review to influence prescribing decisions. Knowledge of a patient's medication history can save hospital resources and greatly improve patient outcomes.

## More information?

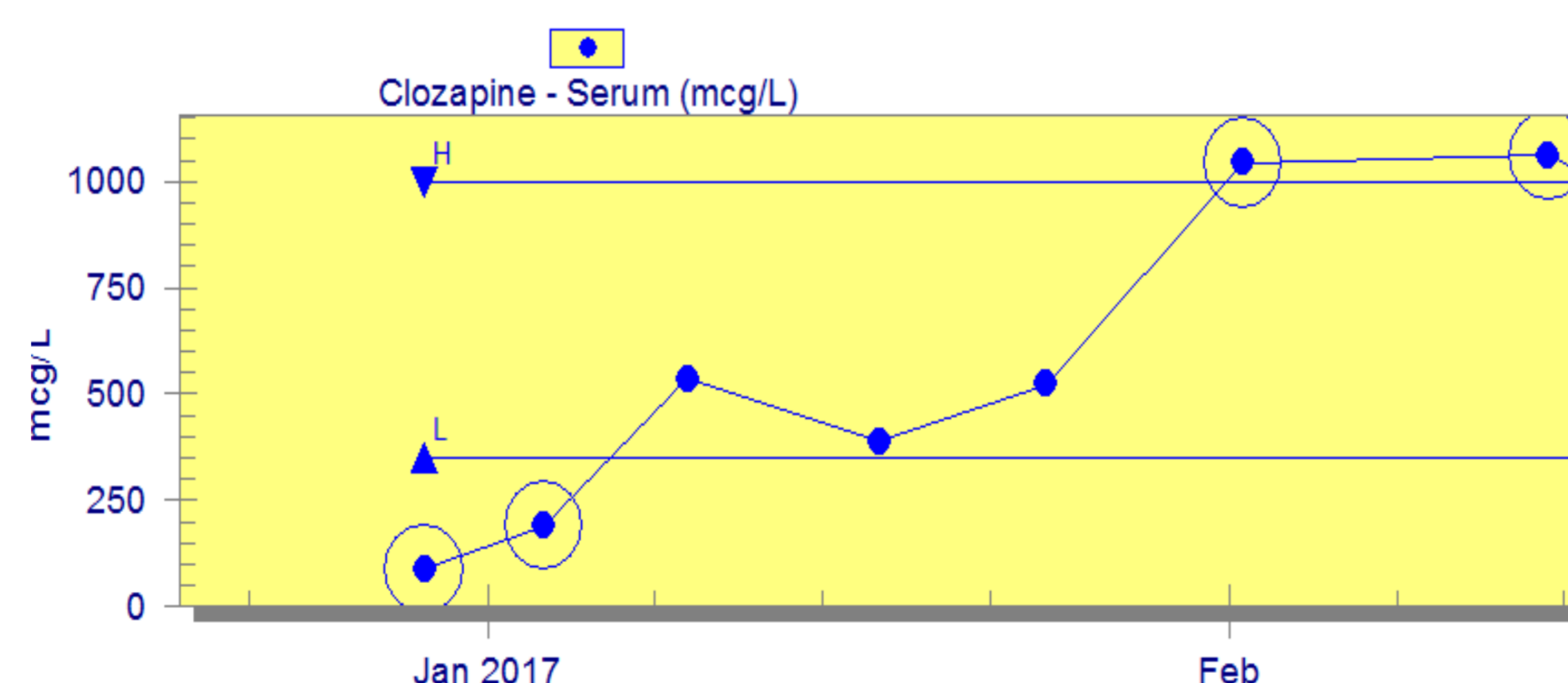
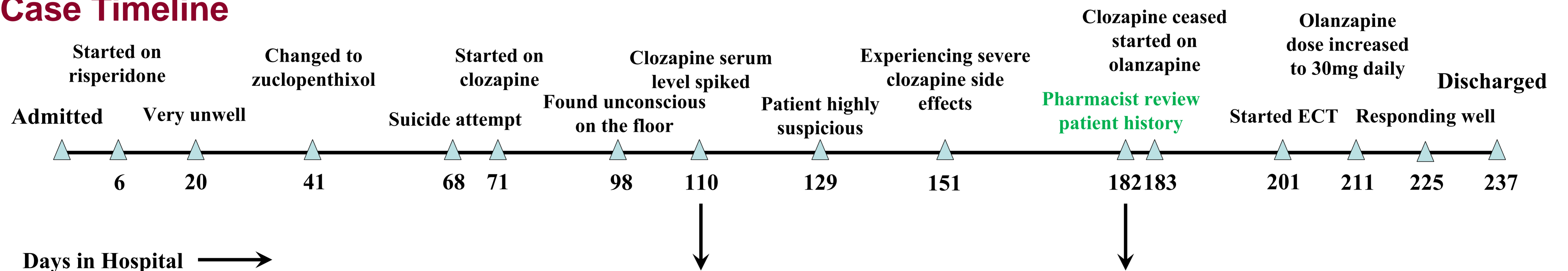
References available on request.  
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## Acknowledgments

Pharmacy staff at North Metropolitan Mental Health Service.



## Case Timeline



## Pharmacist Review:

- A full medication history review going back to 1993
- Noted patient does well on olanzapine
- Recommended a combination of lithium and olanzapine