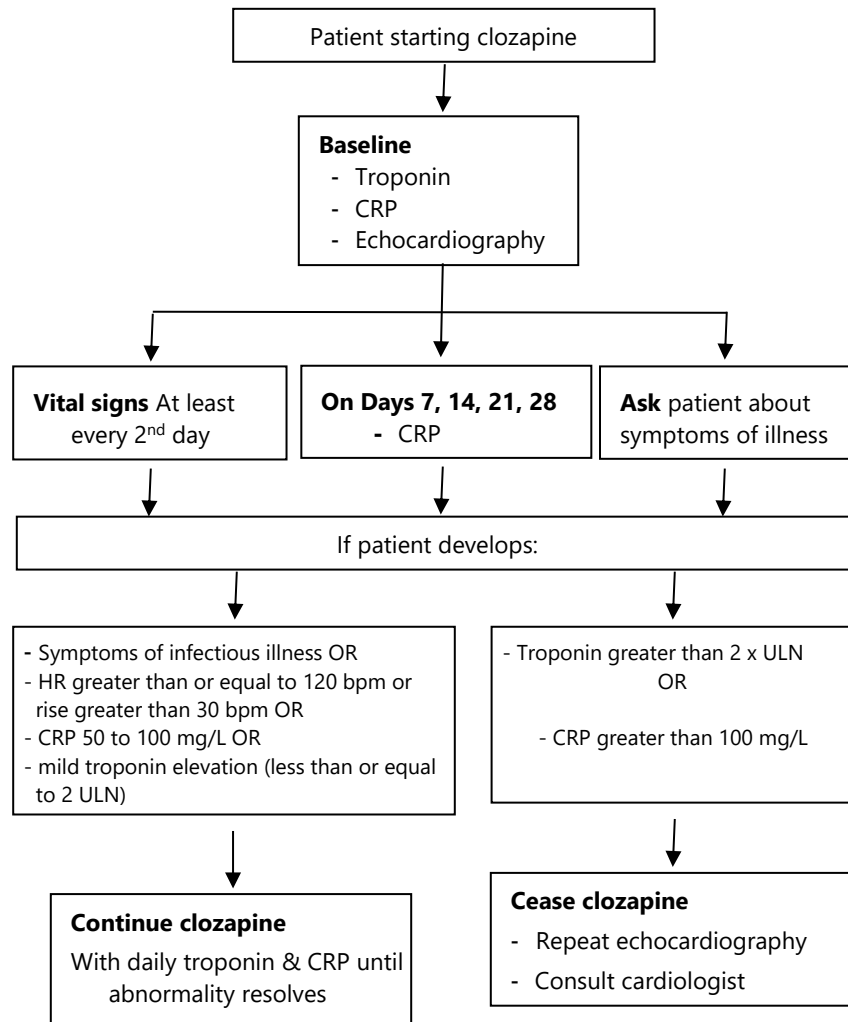


### MYOCARDITIS MONITORING



Reference: Ronaldson et al. *Aust N Z J Psych.* 2011; 45(6):458

### SMOKING

A smoking history should be taken for every patient given the interaction of clozapine with the polyaromatic carbons in cigarette smoke. Note that *Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)* and *nicotine delivery devices such as electronic cigarettes* do **NOT** affect clozapine levels. If patient is prescribed NRT while in hospital and are expected to go back to smoking upon discharge, clozapine blood levels may be decreased upon re-initiation of smoking. It is important to communicate this to the patient and the outpatient psychiatrist in case adjustments to therapy are required.

Smoking cessation counseling should be offered for every patient that smokes. Patients should be advised that once they are stabilized on a dose of clozapine and if they are smoking during that time, plasma clozapine concentrations may be increased in the case of sudden smoking cessation, thus leading to adverse effects. For patients that do not smoke, education around the effects of smoking on clozapine should be provided.