

ADHD in Children and Adolescents

Screen for ADHD

- Can't sit still /hyperactive
- Lack of attention/does not listen
- Impulsive: acts without thinking
- Behavior problem
- Academic problem

Required for ADHD

Behavioral Symptoms:

- Onset before age 12
- Duration of at least 6 months
- Typically occurs in more than one setting (i.e. home/day care/school); on occasion may cause more severe impairment in only one setting
- Results in functional impairment (school/social)

Conditions That May Be Confused With ADHD or Are Comorbid Condition(s)

- Anxiety Disorders
- Bipolar Disorder
- Learning/Language Disorders
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Major Depressive Disorder
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Post traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder/Sleep Disorder
- Tic Disorder
- Substance Use Disorder

Family Assessment

- Chaotic, unstructured home environment
- Family hx of ADHD or psychiatric/psychological problems
- Family stress (i.e. financial/divorce/death of loved one)
- Parenting Style (inappropriate, punitive, inconsistent)
- Life transitions (i.e. moving/change schools, death or loss)
- Cultural factors
- History substance abuse/mental illness
- Abuse/neglect

When to Consider Specialist Referral

- Treatment is not successful
- Multiple or significant comorbid conditions
- Primary care clinician not comfortable with diagnosing and management

