

ADHD in Children and Adolescents

Purpose

To aid primary care physicians with the diagnosis and management of children and adolescents with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Key Points

- In a child between 4 and 18 years who presents with inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, academic underachievement, or behavior problems, clinicians should initiate an evaluation for ADHD.
- The diagnosis of ADHD requires that a child meet DSM-5 criteria.
- It is important to obtain information not only from the child/adolescent but also from individuals the child/adolescent spends a significant amount of time with including the parents, caregivers, day care teachers and school professionals.
- Coordination between child, parent, school and health care professionals is essential to achieve the best outcomes for the child.