

Child, parent or teacher concerns for hyperactivity or inattention

Assessment including review of ADHD symptoms, standardized measure of symptoms per teacher and parent report; consideration of differential diagnoses, family and social history

Consider a diagnosis of ADHD with the following symptoms:
Can't sit still/hyperactive
Lack of attention/poor concentration/doesn't seem to listen/daydream
Impulsive/acts without thinking
Behavior problems
Poor academic performance/underachievement

Are the DSM-5 criteria met for ADHD?

Yes

Diagnosis of ADHD

Differential Diagnosis includes:
Developmental delay
Disruptive behavior disorder
Anxiety
Depression
Trauma exposure
Developmentally inappropriate expectations

Refer for parent management training or behavioral treatment. Follow closely as a child with special health care needs (CSHCN). Communicate/request records from clinician treating child and family.

Is there evidence of developmental concern or alternative diagnoses?

No

Yes

Address co-morbid conditions

Reassess concerns

ADHD symptoms fully treated by clinical report and standardized measures?

Yes

No

Continue to monitor home and school patterns. If completed therapy, monitor with ADHD rating scale or general early childhood screen (e.g. Vanderbilt ADHD Rating scale or Early Childhood Screening Assessment).

First line stimulant: select either extended release methylphenidate (mph) or amphetamine formulation (amph) (see chart below). Titrate to effect or limiting adverse effects. Follow monthly until stable then at least q 3 months

ADHD symptoms fully treated by clinical report and standardized measures?

Yes

No

Reassess diagnosis, consider alternative stimulant (mph or amph) or consultation with specialty mental health provider

ADHD symptoms fully treated by clinical report and standardized measures?

Yes

No

Consult with specialty mental health provider

References :
AAP (2011). "ADHD: Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents." *Pediatrics* 128(5): 1007-1022.
Gleason, M. M., H. L. Egger, et al. (2007). "Psychopharmacological treatment for very young children: Contexts and guidelines." *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* 46(12): 1532-1572.