



Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

ADHD is a neurobiological disorder characterized by persistent problems in three areas: inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. It is estimated to affect 4-8% of children. Although it seems more frequent in boys, girls are affected, too. Boys are recognized as having ADHD more often because they tend to be overtly overactive and impulsive while girls tend towards the less obvious inattentive sub-type.

Although there is often improvement as the child matures, many persons with ADHD continue to have symptoms into adulthood. Some persons with ADHD also have other (*co-morbid*) psychiatric disorders such as mood (*depression*) and anxiety disorders, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, Tourette's syndrome, and learning difficulties. Low self-esteem is common and early intervention is important to minimize its impact on the child's life.

Treatment of ADHD is usually with a stimulant, such as Ritalin, which is effective in most cases. Often, behavioral intervention is added to boost therapeutic success.

Underwriting considerations:

< 18 years old

- In regular school/class with no co-morbid psychiatric disorder, treated only with Ritalin (*or similar drug*) Non-rated
- Other cases such as aggressive behavior, drug experimentation, multiple medications needed, etc. Usually declined

≥ 18 years old

- Adult ADHD, no disability, treated only with Ritalin (*or similar drug*) Non-rated
- Adult ADHD plus history of depression Rating per depression history (see Rx# 26)
- Adult ADHD plus any other psychiatric disorder Individual consideration

To get an idea of how a client with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (*ADHD*) would be viewed in the underwriting process, feel free to use the *Ask "Rx" pert underwriter* on the next page for an informal quote.

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