
Clinical Practice Guideline

Treatment for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents

Revised / Effective: May 2025

Next Review: March 2027

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

The health plan supports the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. The guideline recommendations apply to those aged 4 through 18 years old.

REFERENCE

Wolraich ML, Hagan JF Jr, Allan C, Chan E, Davison D, Earls M, Evans SW, Flinn SK, Froehlich T, Frost J, Holbrook JR, Lehmann CU, Lessin HR, Okechukwu K, Pierce KL, Winner JD, Zurehellen W; Subcommittee on Children and Adolescents with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents. *Pediatrics*. 2019 Oct;144(4):e20192528. doi: 10.1542/peds.2019-2528. Erratum in: *Pediatrics*. 2020 Mar;145(3): PMID: 31570648; PMCID: PMC7067282. Available at: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/144/4/e20192528.long>

POSITION STATEMENT

The guideline by the American Academy of Pediatrics guideline is supported by the health plan because it is based on evidence and where evidence is lacking, on expert panel consensus. The guideline reflects the current standard of care and the following:

- The panel members are recognized experts in the field, practicing in a variety of professional settings;
- The recommendations are based on a well-defined, comprehensive scientific literature search;
- The methods used to critically appraise the evidence supporting the guideline recommendations are transparent;

- The guidelines clearly state the strength of the evidence for which recommendations are based.
- Sources of funding for guideline development are reported; and
- Financial disclosures/potential conflicts of interest for individual panel members are reported and managed.

GUIDELINE ADOPTION AND RECOMMENDED USE

This guideline has been adopted based on nationally recognized sources. This guideline is based on the most recent medical evidence or consensus on clinical treatment patterns by physicians in the selected field of practice. The health plan adopts guidelines to assist practitioners and members make decisions about appropriate health care for specific medical conditions. Guidelines are not a substitute for the advice of a physician.

BENEFIT DETERMINATION

Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable contract coverage. To the extent that there are any conflicts between these guidelines and the contract language, the contract language takes precedence.

Date of Origin: March 2015