

Presenting Symptoms

■ Inattention

Child gets bored easily, lacks concentration, is easily distracted

■ Hyperactivity

Child always seems to be in motion, fidgety or restless

■ Impulsivity

Child often speaks and acts without thinking first, finds it difficult to wait

Evaluation and Assessment

■ Meets *DSM* criteria

■ Symptom validation in at least two settings (*Use Vanderbilt Rating Scales*)

Diagnostic Considerations

- Consider other conditions that may be responsible for symptoms (e.g., medical problems, disorders such as: learning, anxiety and mood, disruptive behavior, and substance abuse)
- Consider comorbid conditions and determine if concomitant treatment of ADHD is appropriate

Baseline Assessment

- Check height, weight, BMI, pulse and blood pressure
- Assess for cardiac risk and tics

Intervention

- Patient/family engagement, psycho-education and informed consent (*see Shared Decision-Making*)

Select Treatment Regimen(s)

Medication

- See table on next page
- See *ADHD Medication List*

Evidenced-Based Therapies

- 1st line for preschoolers: parent training and behavior therapy
- See *ADHD Treatment Guide*

School Interventions

- Engage school to initiate and/or monitor appropriate educational accommodations

Stimulants 1st LINE

**methylphenidate
long-acting**

or

**dextroamphetamine-
amphetamine long-acting**

If first medication trial is ineffective or side effects develop, switch classes.

Try a medication from each of 1st line classes before moving to a 2nd line agent



2nd LINE

Other stimulants can be used for side effect or tolerability issues and unique needs

**dexmethylphenidate
long-acting**

or

Non-stimulants can be used for side effect or tolerability issues or as adjunctive agents if needed

**atomoxetine
guanfacine ER
clonidine ER**

Monitoring

- Check height, weight, BMI, pulse and blood pressure at each visit
- Phone check-up after one week and at least monthly visits when prescribing new or changing medication
- Office visits at least every three months for stable patients
- Evaluate for adverse *effects* and *intervene* as appropriate
- Evaluate for adherence to treatment regimen
- Measure outcomes by evaluating duration of *effects* and *efficacy*

Duration of Treatment Regimen

- Every year, conduct full diagnostic assessment and review medication risks and benefits
- Coordinate care by medical home, specialists, parents/caregiver and school
- Consider medication "holiday"

★ See the full *Algorithm D* for complete assessment and diagnostic guidelines