
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Documentation requirements for an individual requesting services due to an attentional disorder must be completed by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or other related medical professional with the experience or expertise in the domain for which he/she is diagnosing. Reports must be on letterhead, typed, dated, and signed.

There is no one test or specified combination of tests for determining ADHD. An accurate diagnosis requires a multifaceted approach. Test scores or subtest scores cannot be used alone to make a diagnosis. A report based on a clinical interview alone will not meet the guidelines. Consider the combinations of elements that are listed below as possible guidelines for writing reports:

1. Clinical interview + history + computerized continuous performance test + tests of cognitive ability
2. Clinical interview + history + computerized continuous performance test + additional neuropsychological assessment measures
3. Clinical interview + history + rating scales + response to medication
4. Psychoeducational battery that meets the University of Pittsburgh's established documentation guidelines for a learning disorder (see LD guidelines)

Clarification of elements:

- Clinical interview must include:
 - Current symptoms as described by the DSM-IV TR
 - Treatment of the disorder
 - Differential diagnoses that were excluded and rationale for excluding them
- History must include:
 - Evidence of early impairment
 - Relevant medical, family, and academic history
- Computerized continuous performance test - examples are:
 - TOVA
 - IVA CPT
 - Conners CPT
- Rating scales - examples are:
 - Brown Attention-Activation Disorder Scale
 - Wender Utah Rating Scale
 - ADHD Rating Scale (ARS)
- Tests of cognitive ability - examples include:
 - Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Cognitive Ability
 - WAIS III

The documentation must include these components to be complete:

- A DSM-IV TR diagnosis
- An interpretation of test scores
- A description of the condition's current functional impact on learning
- Medication dosage, frequency, and possible side effects (if applicable)
- Medication effects on attention (if applicable)
- Testing must reflect adult status (18 years or older) and is considered to be valid if administered within the last three years