ADHD Screening and Follow-up Care for Children

We appreciate your taking an active role in screening children with symptoms of attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The American Academy for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association affirm thorough assessment is needed to rule out other conditions including learning disabilities, depression or anxiety disorders that mimic ADHD.

How You Can Help

Prior to prescribing medications, screen patients for ADHD. If medication is prescribed, be sure to:

- Schedule a follow-up appointment with your patient within 30 days of writing the prescription
- Schedule at least two more follow-up appointments over the next nine months to make sure the dosage is effective and to assess for side effects

Refer to a Mental Health Professional

In conjunction with medication, Psychosocial treatment approaches are also recommended. They include cognitive-behavioral therapy, social skills training, parent education and modifications to the child’s education program. (AACAP)

You can request coordination of care and referrals for members by calling the number on the back of the member’s health plan ID card or searching liveandworkwell.com.

Recommended screening tools include:

- Vanderbilt Scale – providerexpress.com > Clinical Resources > Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Resources from the Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) organization – CHADD.org > Understanding ADHD > For Professionals > For Healthcare Professionals > Clinical Practice Tools > Evaluation and Assessment Tools

Most of these tools also allow parents and teachers to provide feedback.

Resources

- More tools and information about behavioral health issues are available on providerexpress.com > Clinical Resources > Behavioral Health Toolkit for Medical Providers.
- Patient education information is available on liveandworkwell.com using access code “clinician.” See “Mind & Body” at the top, scroll down to find the links to topics.