

CADTH Reference List

# Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Treatment of Attention- Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

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## Key Message

We found 3 evidence-based guidelines regarding pharmaceutical treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

## Research Question

What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding pharmaceutical treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder?

## Methods

### Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the international HTA database, and the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concept was Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. CADTH-developed search filters were applied to limit retrieval to guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English-language documents published between January 1, 2017, and August 12, 2022. Internet links were provided, where available.

### Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in [Table 1](#). Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. Open access full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when available.

## Results

Three evidence-based guidelines regarding pharmaceutical treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) were identified.<sup>1-3</sup>

Additional references of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in [Appendix 1](#).

## References

### Guidelines and Recommendations

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Diagnosis and Management. (*NICE guideline NG87*) 2019; <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng87>. Accessed 2022 Aug 19. See: 1.7 Medication (page 23 to 31)
2. Wolraich ML, Hagan JF, Jr., Allan C, et al. Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents. *Pediatrics*. 2019;144(4):10. [PubMed](#)
3. Feldman ME, Charach A, Belanger SA. ADHD in children and youth: Part 2-Treatment. *Paediatr Child Health*. 2018;23(7):462-472. [PubMed](#)

## Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Note that this appendix has not been copy-edited.

### Previous CADTH Reports

4. Jahagirdar D, Mahood Q. CADTH health technology review: Guanfacine for Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, and/or Oppositional Defiance Disorder. *Can J Health Technol.* 2022;2(7). <https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/2022/RC1440-Guanfacine.pdf>. Accessed 2022 Aug 19.
5. Harricharan S, Adcock L. Guanfacine Hydrochloride Extended-Release for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: A Review of Clinical Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Guidelines. (*CADTH Rapid response report: summary with critical appraisal*). Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2018: <https://www.cadth.ca/guanfacine-hydrochloride-extended-release-attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-review-clinical>. Accessed 2022 Aug 19.
6. Poitras V, McCormack S. Guanfacine Hydrochloride Extended-Release for the Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Adults: A Review of Clinical Effectiveness, Cost Effectiveness, and Guidelines. (*CADTH Rapid response report: summary with critical appraisal*). Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2018: <https://www.cadth.ca/guanfacine-hydrochloride-extended-release-treatment-attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adults>. Accessed 2022 Aug 19.
7. Clark M, Picheca L. Assessment and Treatment of Adult Inmates with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines. (*CADTH Rapid response report: summary of abstracts*). Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2017: <https://www.cadth.ca/assessment-and-treatment-adult-inmates-attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-clinical>. Accessed 2022 Aug 19.

### Guidelines and Recommendations

#### *Alternative Population: Adults With ADHD and Comorbid Substance Use Disorder*

8. Cunill R, Castells X, Gonzalez-Pinto A, et al. Clinical practice guideline on pharmacological and psychological management of adult patients with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder and comorbid substance use. *Adicciones.* 2022;34(2):168-178. [PubMed](#)
9. Ozgen H, Spijkerman R, Noack M, et al. International Consensus Statement for the Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Adolescents with Concurrent Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Substance Use Disorder. *Eur Addict Res.* 2020;26(4-5):223-232. [PubMed](#)
10. Crunelle CL, van den Brink W, Moggi F, et al. International Consensus Statement on Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment of Substance Use Disorder Patients with Comorbid Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. *Eur Addict Res.* 2018;24(1):43-51. [PubMed](#)

#### *Alternative Population: Children and Youth With ADHD and Comorbid Autism, Intellectual Disability, or Prematurity*

11. Clark B, Bélanger SA. ADHD in children and youth: Part 3-Assessment and treatment with comorbid ASD, ID, or prematurity. *Paediatr Child Health.* 2018;23(7):485-490. [PubMed](#)

#### *Alternative Methodology: Consensus*

12. Kooij JJS, Bijlenga D, Salerno L, et al. Updated European Consensus Statement on diagnosis and treatment of adult ADHD. *Eur Psychiatry.* 2019;56:14-34. [PubMed](#)

#### *Unclear Methodology*

13. Choosing Wisely Canada. Psychiatry: Thirteen Things Physicians and Patients Should Question. 2021; <https://choosingwiselycanada.org/recommendation/psychiatry/>. Accessed 2022 Aug 19. See: "Don't use atypical antipsychotics as a first-line intervention for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) with disruptive behaviour disorders.", and "Don't use psychostimulants as a first-line intervention in preschool children with ADHD."
14. Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan. Ambulatory Pediatric Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Guideline. 2020; <https://michmed-public.policystat.com/policy/7885176/latest/>. Accessed 2022 Aug 19. See: *Table 5 and Table 7*
15. Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance (CADDRA). Canadian ADHD Practice Guidelines, Fourth Edition. Toronto (ON): CADDRA; 2018: [https://www.caddra.ca/wp-content/uploads/CADDRA-Guidelines-4th-Edition\\_-Feb2018.pdf](https://www.caddra.ca/wp-content/uploads/CADDRA-Guidelines-4th-Edition_-Feb2018.pdf). Accessed 2022 Aug 19. See: *Chapter 5 (page 53 to 92)*

### Review Articles

16. Pliszka SR, Pereira-Sanchez V, Robles-Ramamurthy B. A Review of Clinical Practice Guidelines in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. *Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am.* 2022;31(3):569-581. [PubMed](#)