

Diagnosis and Stimulant Medication in Children with Attentional Problems

- A Survey of Current Practice

Section A - Who deals with attentional problems?

A1. Please indicate which professional category applies to you: *(please tick applicable box)*

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Paediatrician

A2. Do you routinely accept referrals of children with these problems?

Yes *(if you answered yes, please go on to Section B)*

No *(if you answered no, please go on to A 3)*

A3. If such children are referred to other specialties, please specify:

.....

If you answered 'No' to question A2, Sections B and C are not applicable. Thank you for completing this questionnaire and please return it in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

Section B -Aetiology, Diagnosis, and Investigations

B1. Regarding aetiology of attentional problems, **please indicate which of the following statements you agree with the most:**

These problems are more biological in origin
(eg neuro-transmitter imbalance, birth trauma)

These problems are more due to environmental factors
(eg insecure attachment, sub-optimal parenting,
psychological trauma)

These problems are due to an equal mixture of
biological and environmental factors

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B2 How do you routinely describe such problems? (*please tick one or more boxes as applicable*)

- Problem/symptom list
- ADD/ADHD
- ADHD
- Hyperactivity
- Hyperkinetic disorder
- Other *please specify:*

B3. If you use formal diagnoses, which classification system do you currently use on a day-to-day basis, and how tightly do you apply diagnostic/ operational criteria?

- | | <i>'tightly' applied</i> | <i>'loosely' applied</i> | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| DSM IV | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| ICD 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>please specify:</i> |
| I do not use formal diagnoses | | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

B4. What information beyond the initial appointment do you collect in the process of assessment?

- Phone call/letter from school*
- Checklist from parents
- Checklist from school*
- Psychometric assessment
- Baseline physical data
- Other *please specify:*

*if the child attends school

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Section C - What is the relationship of stimulant medication to attentional problems?

C1. Do you use stimulant medication as part of a treatment package for children with these problems?

often *sometimes* *never*
□ □ □

C2. If you do prescribe stimulant medication for children with these problems, please indicate which statement most closely applies to you:

I never prescribe stimulant medication if insufficient criteria are met for a formal diagnosis to be made □

I sometimes prescribe stimulant medication even if insufficient criteria are met for a formal diagnosis to be made □

I often prescribe stimulant medication even if insufficient criteria are met for a formal diagnosis to be made □

I do not use formal diagnoses to describe such problems □

C3. How does the presence of other conduct difficulties affect your likelihood to prescribe stimulant medication?

more likely *no difference* *less likely*
□ □ □

Section D - Views and expectations of families and referrers

D1. In your experience do parents/carers come to assessments with preconceived ideas that their child has 'ADHD' (or equivalent term)?

often *sometimes* *rarely*
□ □ □

D2. In your experience, does pressure to prescribe stimulant medication come from any of the sources listed below?

<i>never</i>	<i>often</i>	<i>sometimes</i>	
social services	□	□	□
education (eg teachers)	□	□	□
parents/carers	□	□	□

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others (please specify:)

D3. How would such pressure influence your likelihood to prescribe stimulant medication?

more likely

no difference

less likely

Additional Comments:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please use the pre-paid addressed envelope when returning the questionnaire, or send to:

Attentional Problems Survey

*Diagnosis and Stimulant Medication in Children with Attentional Problems - A
Survey of Current Practice*
[Address]