

ATTENTION-DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (FORMERLY ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER)

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I. DESCRIPTION

A mental disorder characterized by a persistent pattern of inappropriate inattention and/or impulsivity that is more frequent and severe than is typically observed in individuals at a comparable level of development. Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder is the term used in Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV) to describe this condition; other terms used include: hyperkinetic reaction of childhood, hyperkinetic syndrome, hyperactive child syndrome, minimal brain damage or dysfunction, minimal cerebral dysfunction, and minor cerebral dysfunction.

II. POLICY

Otherwise covered services that are medically or psychologically necessary to diagnose or treat attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder are covered.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Because attention deficit/hyperactivity is considered a mental disorder, claims will be handled according to the procedures for professional review of other such claims, regardless of the type of provider rendering the care.

B. In general, the services that would be covered for patients with a diagnosis of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder include:

1. Diagnostic testing and assessment, including neurological evaluation
2. Medication
3. Psychotherapy, particularly behavioral therapy and family therapy.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Services and supplies related to general or special education.

B. Use of the Test of Variables of Attention (TOVA®) for diagnosing attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and for titrating pharmacotherapy levels.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE **November 13, 1984.**

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