



Chronic Condition Coding Awareness: ADHD

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a brain disorder marked by an ongoing pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that interferes with functioning or development¹. The symptoms differ person to person, but both children and adults can have ADHD. There are three types of ADHD: Inattentive, hyperactive-impulsive, and combined². For a person to receive a diagnosis of ADHD, the symptoms of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity must be chronic or long-lasting, impair the person's functioning, and cause the person to fall behind normal development for his or her age¹.

Symptoms of ADHD

It is normal to have some inattention, unfocused motor activity and impulsivity, but for people with ADHD, these behaviors can be more severe, occur more often, and may interfere with or reduce the quality of how they function socially, at school, or in a job. ADHD symptoms can appear as early as between the ages of 3 and 6 and can continue through adolescence and adulthood¹.

Treatment of ADHD

While there is no cure for ADHD, currently available treatments can help reduce symptoms and improve functioning. Treatments include medication, psychotherapy, education or training, or a combination of treatments¹.

Depression Coding Guidance

TIPS:	ICD-10 Mapping & Education
➤ ICD-10-CM	F90.0 – F90.9 (Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorders) ³
➤ Attempt for more specificity...	Avoid broad terms and unspecified codes such as “ADHD”, F90.9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be meticulous in picking up the details in documentation. ○ It leads to precise coding and a better awareness about the disease and the population it affects.
➤ In the documentation use terms that specify...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inattentive ○ Hyperactive ○ Combined
➤ NOTE ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Codes within categories F90-F98 may be used regardless of the age of a patient. ○ These disorders generally have onset within the childhood or adolescent years, but may continue throughout life or not be diagnosed until adulthood. ○ “Notes” within ICD-10, function as alerts to highlight coding instructions within the text³.
➤ Refilling medication	Don't forget to verify the condition and list the diagnosis in the Assessment & Plan.

1. National Institute of Mental Health: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (revised March 2016) <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd/index.shtml>
2. WebMD: ADHD Health Center <http://www.webmd.com/add-adhd/default.htm>
3. 2017 ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians: The Complete Official Code Set, Optum360. 2016 Optum360, LLC