

Table 1

Diagnostic Criteria for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Inattention or hyperactivity/impulsivity or both is required for the diagnosis.

Inattention:

- (1) six (or more) of the following symptoms of **inattention** have persisted for at least 6 months to a degree that is maladaptive and inconsistent with developmental level:
- ∞ often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities
 - ∞ often has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities
 - ∞ often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly
 - ∞ often does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores, or duties in the workplace (not due to oppositional behavior or failure to understand instructions)
 - ∞ often has difficulty organizing tasks and activities
 - ∞ often avoids, dislikes, or is reluctant to engage in tasks that require sustained mental effort (such as schoolwork or homework)
 - ∞ often loses things necessary for tasks or activities (e.g., toys, school assignments, pencils, books, or tools)
 - ∞ is often easily distracted by extraneous stimuli
 - ∞ is often forgetful in daily activities

Hyperactivity/Impulsivity:

- (2) six (or more) of the following symptoms of **hyperactivity/impulsivity** have persisted for at least 6 months to a degree that is maladaptive and inconsistent with developmental level:

Hyperactivity:

- ∞ often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat
- ∞ often leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which remaining seated is expected
- ∞ often runs about or climbs excessively in situations in which it is inappropriate (in adolescents or adults, may be limited to subjective feelings of restlessness)
- ∞ often has difficulty playing or engaging in leisure activities quietly
- ∞ often “on the go” or acts as if “driven by a motor”
- ∞ often talks excessively

Impulsivity:

- ∞ often blurts out answers before questions have been completed
- ∞ often has difficulty awaiting turn
- ∞ often interrupts or intrudes on others (e.g., butts into conversations or games)

Some hyperactive-impulsive or inattentive symptoms that caused impairment were present before age 7 years. There is clinically significant impairment in social, academic, or occupational functioning. Impairment is present in two or more settings.

The symptoms do not occur exclusively during the course of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Schizophrenia, or other Psychotic Disorder and are not better accounted for by another mental disorder (e.g., Mood Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Dissociative Disorder, or Personality Disorder).

Adapted from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Revised.