Providing evidence-based evaluations for suspected ADHD is a cornerstone service provided by the Cincinnati Children's Center for ADHD. This brochure is designed to provide parents with an overview of the evaluation process and to answer commonly asked questions about the evaluation process.

Our evaluations are conducted by clinical child/pediatric psychologists who specialize in the assessment and treatment of ADHD. Advanced trainees in clinical child/pediatric psychology may also be involved in aspects of the evaluation, under the supervision of the attending psychologist.



Initial Intake Procedures

To start the evaluation process, parents contact our Intake office, whose staff will collect some basic information. The parent(s) and teacher(s) of the child to be evaluated will need to complete a set of questionnaires on a secure website (or, if they don't have internet access, paper forms can be sent through the mail) before the initial appointment can be scheduled.

If the child has been previously evaluated by a psychologist, neurologist, physician, or any other professional, the parent is asked to bring a copy of their report to the initial appointment. Likewise, parents are encouraged to bring copies of any other information (such as prior report cards, standardized testing at school, or teacher notes) which would be helpful in understanding the child's history to the first appointment.

Diagnostic Interviews with Parents and Child

The entire evaluation process involves three visits, each lasting approximately one hour. The first appointment is scheduled just with the child's parent(s) in order to obtain an in-depth understanding of their concerns about their child's functioning, as well as a discussion of your child's current functioning, as well as his/her early development.

The second session will generally be spent interviewing the child in order to assess their understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing and to assess for other factors that may be influencing their functioning. With younger children, part of this session may also be spent observing parent-child interaction during a play or other activity. Older children and adolescents may be asked to complete one or more pencil-and-paper questionnaires, if needed.

Feedback Appointment

Once both the parent and child interviews have been completed, a final appointment is scheduled approximately two weeks after the child visit in order to review our findings and recommendations. Parents receive a written report at this visit so that they have these findings and recommendations in writing to act on as needed in concert with the child's physician and school.

Will my Insurance Pay for this Evaluation?

In general, the evaluation we conduct is covered by most health insurance policies as a mental health expense. Depending on the specifics of a particular policy, parents may be responsible for a deductible and/or co-payment. Parents are contacted by an Access Services Representative (ASR) to discuss the coverage provided by their insurance prior to the first appointment.

A Final Word

This process may seem very detailed and time consuming, but it is necessary in order to conduct a thorough evaluation for ADHD. Depending on the results of the evaluation, several additional services may be recommended, including referral to the child's physician for medical management, parent training for dealing with behavior problems often exhibited by children and adolescents with ADHD, or other services to promote positive management and coping with ADHD as appropriate.

Scheduling an Evaluation

To start the process of having their child evaluated for suspected ADHD, parents should call the Cincinnati Children's Division of Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Psychology Intake Office at (513) 636-4336.



Center for ADHD

ADHD Assessment Services for Children and Adolescents



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