

# Appraisal of clinical practice guidelines for the management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) using the AGREE II Instrument: a systematic review

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## Abstract

PROSPERO protocol

Link: [http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display\\_record.php?ID=CRD42017078712](http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.php?ID=CRD42017078712)

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## Guidelines

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### Review question

The aim is to explore the quality of and critically appraise recently published evidence-based clinical practice

guidelines for the management of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

### Searches

Data Sources include:-

- Guidelines International Network <http://www.g-i-n.net/library/international-guidelines-library>
- National Guidelines Clearinghouse <http://www.guidelines.gov>
- EBSCO - DynaMed Plus <https://dynamed.ebscohost.com/>
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence <http://www.nice.org.uk/>
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network <http://www.sign.ac.uk/index.html>
- US National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health (MEDLINE/ PubMed) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed> (for CPGs published as full-text articles)
- Google Scholar (free) <http://scholar.google.com/> (for CPGs published as full-text articles) • Plus

### CPGs

published by national and international specialized scientific societies/ associations relevant to ADHD (e.g.

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychiatric Association, European Psychiatric Association, etc.).

Additionally, we will also conduct internet searches for CPGs published online only.

Types of study to be included

Clinical Practice Guidelines

Condition or domain being studied

ADHD in children and adolescents. The inclusion or exclusion of adults will have been at the discretion of the

Source CPG developers and age limits, co-morbidities, etc, should have been defined by them. We will

assess how this was reported as part of our appraisal using the AGREE II Instrument.

Participants/population

The participants, including inclusion and exclusion criteria, should have been specified by the guideline

developers and cannot be known until we begin the appraisal of the guidelines identified by our searches.

We will include only CPGs with a section targeting children and adolescents. Relevant items of the AGREE II

Instrument will be used to assess how well the scope of the CPG was reported.

Intervention(s), exposure(s)

The interventions included within the included CPGs will have been pre-defined by the CPG development

group to match the individual requirements within the scope. We will only consider CPGs that include the

comprehensive management of ADHD. The criteria of the AGREE II Instrument will be used to assess how

well the included interventions were reported and presented. Identified key target interventions include

diagnosis and assessment (i.e. parent, carer, teacher, or patient complaints, history and physical examination, psychological tools, differential diagnosis, and investigations) and treatment (i.e. psychosocial

interventions, pharmacological treatment, comorbidities, parents/ carers and home, monitoring, special

cases, transition of care from childhood to adulthood, complementary medicine, and treatment of complications of pharmacological treatment)

Comparator(s)/control

Comparator(s) and control groups with inclusion and exclusion criteria may or may not have been predefined

by the CPG development group. Comparators would not usually be defined when multiple interventions are included in the recommendations of the CPG.

Primary outcome(s)

(1) Standardize evidence-based assessment and management of ADHD including Early diagnosis and

intervention of ADHD and Multi-modal interventions for ADHD.

(2) Improve patient target outcomes and safety (e.g. symptoms of ADHD, academic performance, social

relationships, parent-child interactions and family stress, and risk for serious accidental injury)

Secondary outcome(s)

(1) Decrease variation of practice.

(2) Improve patient-related adverse health outcomes that co-occur with ADHD (e.g. substance abuse

disorder and smoking, sleep difficulties/disorders, physical injuries, etc.)

Data extraction (selection and coding)

Five reviewers including one CPG methodologist will independently screen the titles and abstracts of all

searched documents and determine the ones for full-text review and eligible CPGs for ADHD.

Disagreements will be resolved through discussion and consensus with the reviewers. The same five

reviewers will search the internet for CPGs published online only. Information relevant to rating of each of the

23 items on the AGREE II Instrument will be extracted from included CPGs by utilizing the online tool (MY

AGREE Plus) that is freely available and accessible from the AGREE Enterprise website

(<http://www.agreetrust.org/>). The authors will then independently score every item on a 1-7 scale based on

how well each CPG addresses the listed questions and the AGREE criteria. An additional validation of the

included CPGs will be conducted for inclusion of systematic reviews in the evidence-based with their

category whether Cochrane systematic reviews or others.

Risk of bias (quality) assessment

The AGREE II Instrument addresses the reporting of CPGs. It does not assess aspects of study design

quality such as appropriateness of the methods used or trustworthiness of the recommendations.

We are not

aware of any validated instrument for assessing risk of bias of CPGs. Some of the items on the AGREE II

checklist are relevant to the detection of potential sources of bias (e.g. bias due to under-representation of

some stakeholders in the development process - items 4 and 5, reporting bias - items 9-12, bias due to

conflict of interest/independence of funding bodies - items 22 and 23).

Strategy for data synthesis

Descriptive statistics will be generated and presented in tabular format to summarize the characteristics of

the CPGs eligible for inclusion. Once all seven AGREE appraisers have scored each item on the AGREE II,

they will hold a meeting to discuss discrepancies between scores and address any obvious discrepancies

and errors. For every included CPG, we will use the 'My AGREE PLUS'

(<http://www.agreetrust.org/myagree/>)

to record scores and to keep online records of individual appraiser's scores. For every single CPG, a standardized quality score will be calculated for each of the six domains of the AGREE II

Instrument, using the equation presented in the AGREE II User's Manual. In summary, standardized domain scores will be calculated by summing up all the appraisers' scores of the individual items in a domain and by scaling the total as a percentage of the maximum possible score for that domain. This calculation is automatically generated on the My AGREE PLUS platform. The overall quality of the included CPGs in each domain of the AGREE II will be presented through the two overall assessments included in the instrument. Since the six domains of the AGREE II are independent, standardized domain quality scores will not be aggregated.

#### Analysis of subgroups or subsets

The references section of included CPGs will be reviewed and assessed for inclusion of 'Systematic Reviews' in the evidence-base of these CPGs (especially the Cochrane systematic reviews).

#### Contact details for further information

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04 March 2017

Anticipated completion date

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Conflicts of interest

None known

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English

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Saudi Arabia

Stage of review

Review\_Ongoing

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Subject indexing assigned by CRD

Subject index terms

Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity; Humans

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24 November 2017

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05 October 2017

## Protocol

Identify eligibility criteria for ADHD clinical practice guidelines (CPGs)

### Step 1.

Search and screen ADHD CPGs

### Step 2.

Critically appraise ADHD CPGs using the AGREE II Instrument

### Step 3.

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Discuss the results of the AGREE II assessment

### Step 4.

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